

LEONARD H. BALLARD

Inspector
United States Capitol Police

1947–1984

Oral History Interviews
August 18, 1983 to January 10, 1984

Senate Historical Office
Washington, DC

DEED OF GIFT

I, Leonard H. Ballard, do hereby give to the Senate Historical Office the tape recordings and transcripts of my interviews between August 18, 1983 and January 10, 1984.

I authorize the Senate Historical Office to use the tapes and transcripts in such manner as may best serve the educational and historical objectives of their oral history program. I also approve the deposit of the transcripts at the Library of Congress, the Senate Library, and any other institution which the Senate Historical Office may deem appropriate. In making this gift, I voluntarily convey ownership of the tapes and transcripts to the public domain.

Leonard H. Ballard

Accepted on behalf of the Senate Historical Office by:

Richard A. Baker

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface

Interview #1	1
Interview #2	33
Interview #3	64
Interview #4	93
Interview #5	105
Interview #6	150
Interview #7	182
Interview #8	220
Interview #9	265

Index

LEONARD H. BALLARD
Inspector
United States Capitol Police
1947-1984

Oral History Interviews
August 18, 1983 to January 10, 1984

PREFACE

Leonard H. Ballard's 37-year-career with the United States Capitol Police Force spanned an era of profound change for that organization as well as for the body it serves--the Congress of the United States. The interviews in this volume provide an insider's account of the dimensions of that change. Colorfully and candidly, Ballard recalls the newsmaking events and personalities with which he was associated over the course of four decades. They include inaugurations, state funerals, Capitol bombings, terrorist attacks, and protest demonstrations.

When he joined the force on May 16, 1947, the police rolls carried the names of 157 men. Of that number, Ballard observes in these interviews, "there were only about 100 of them working. About 50 never came to town." He explained, "Now, I know a lieutenant who was a lieutenant for 18 years. I saw him twice. He operated a restaurant in Biloxi, Mississippi. He was under Senator Jim Eastland. He came up here a couple of times and brought us some shrimp!" Among the remaining 100 who were present for duty in 1947, most were either college students or retired policemen from other jurisdictions supplementing their pensions. Serving a Capitol Hill population of 2,000, the department in that postwar era conveyed an image perhaps not unlike that of its predecessor in the years after the Civil War.

One observer described the Capitol Police of 1869 as "thirty-three bored, yawning, inexpressibly idle men about the Capitol."

That image had vanished by the time Ballard completed his service on May 16, 1984--exactly exactly thirty-seven years from the day of his arrival. Operating with an annual budget of \$32 million, the department had expanded to 1,200 men and women, serving a congressional community in excess of 20,000. During these years, Ballard rose quickly through the ranks holding every grade from private to acting chief. Although he spent his last decade in the senior grade of inspector, his proudest promotion occurred in 1962 when he became the first man selected from the ranks to hold the position of captain.

Leonard Ballard's choice of a police career was purely accidental. To kill some time in May 1947, during a visit to Washington, he paid a courtesy call on Senator Chapman Revercomb, the junior senator from Ballard's native West Virginia. The senator agreed to expedite Mrs. Ballard's request for a transfer from her wartime job in Washington back to West Virginia. He also offered Ballard a temporary Senate position until that transfer came through. In these interviews, Ballard recalls what happened next.

He called Louis Reed, his administrative assistant, who came and got me. He took

me through the office building and over to the Capitol. I didn't know what I was doing--didn't question it. I went to one room--held up my hand, signed my name here, you know. Over to the Disbursing Office and so forth. You see, I didn't plan to be here more than a few days anyhow, so I didn't care what it was. I took that attitude. We went down to the basement, down the corridor, and here's a sign, "Capitol Police." Of course, naturally, I said, "What are we going to do here, Mr. Reed? Get fingerprinted?" I figured everybody who goes to work for the government gets fingerprinted. And he said, "No, no, you're going to join the Capitol Police Force." Well, I had a cane! I said, "Capitol Police! Now, I'll tell you, that senator's known me since I was six years old, and I have no police experience. I don't want to get into anything that would embarrass him. Also, to tell you the truth, Mr. Reed, all my experience has been on the other side of the law."

By 3:00 o'clock that afternoon, Ballard was standing roll call in the uniform of a Capitol Policeman. Two weeks later, he told his wife to cancel her transfer request. "This job is a good job, it is an interesting job. It suits me and I think I'll make a career out of it."

The key to Ballard's successful accommodation to the vast changes that occurred within his working environment over nearly four decades can be found in his understanding of the special nature of police work on Capitol Hill. He observed, "I was never a policeman. I wasn't cut out to be a policeman. Because, up here it is not police work. It is public relations." Disdaining the trends of modern police work that place a premium on electronic security systems, narcotics squads, and extended technical training programs, Ballard believes that the special nature of the congressional community prescribes a simple but basic mission for the Capitol Police. That includes support of members, kindness to staff, and courtesy to tourists. It ought to exclude, in his opinion, such peripheral functions as chasing speeders and issuing parking tickets. He believes that ultimately there is no defense against anarchy or terrorism and that additional police personnel and equipment serve only a symbolic rather than substantive purpose.

These interviews were conducted in Ballard's third floor office at police headquarters located in the old Plaza Hotel near the Dirksen Senate Office Building. They took place over a five-month period beginning in August 1983. The following transcripts demonstrate Leonard Ballard's gifts as a story teller. His superior memory and ability to illustrate significant points with appropriate anecdotes have combined to create a document that will deepen our understanding of the Senate's institutional development since World War II.

About The Interviewer: Richard A. Baker was director of the United States Senate Historical Office from 1975 to 2009. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, he received masters degrees from Columbia University and Michigan State University, and his Ph.D. in history from the University of Maryland. Prior to becoming Senate Historian in 1975, he held positions as reference librarian in the Congressional Research Service, acting curator of the Senate, and research director for the Government Research Corporation. He prepared a biography of former United States Senator Clinton P. Anderson (D-NM) and articles related to research in congressional history. Baker served as an elected member on the executive council of

the Society for History in the Federal Government, and as board member of the Carl Albert Congressional Studies Center. He taught a course in congressional history at the University of Maryland, College Park, and a course on Senate history for the Cornell-in-Washington program.

Leonard Ballard

Inspector, United States Capitol Police (1947-1984)

Interview #1

(Thursday, August 18, 1983)
Interviewed by Richard A. Baker

BAKER: I would like to know about your early life. Where and when were you born?

BALLARD:: I was born in a little town in southern West Virginia, Alderson, West Virginia, on October 11, 1908. My father was a buyer for the New River and Pocahontas Consolidated Coal Company. He bought for company stores. You know, they had a company store in every town. He started out working for them as a clerk in a company store, then he worked up to manager, and eventually to buyer.

I attended high school in Alderson, and then I enrolled in Alderson Baptist College and spent two years there. It is now Alderson-Broadus at Philippi, West Virginia. During the Depression, the Baptist Church couldn't afford the two schools. Broadus was in better financial condition, so they closed Alderson and consolidated them. It is now Alderson-Broadus.

There is an organization in West Virginia known as the "University of Hard Knocks." The idea came from Jim Comstock, the publisher of a paper called *Hillbilly*. He had a partner who was always bemoaning the fact that he did not have a college degree. So the publisher designed a diploma for him--and there it is (pointing to the wall).

page 1

The official seal is a bandaid. Now they have 3,000 members. They use the Alderson-Broadus College campus where they have their own room and have their graduation there. Senator Barry Goldwater is an honorary graduate and so is Senator Jennings Randolph.

When I finished the two years there, I enrolled in Concord State School, which is nearby. I was supposed to report in September, but the president of the bank went up to the swimming hole, put a couple of bricks in his pockets, and didn't come back up. The bank didn't open on Monday morning.

BAKER: What year was that?

BALLARD:: I graduated from ABA in 1929, so that was 1931.

BAKER: That was a bad year.

BALLARD:: Yes. The bank didn't open, so I couldn't go to school, because the only money any person in town had was what they had in their pockets. As I mentioned earlier, my father was a buyer for company stores. When I was in high school, I was the best dressed fellow in town. I used to go with my father on trips to Baltimore to buy clothes, and of course, the salesmen always gave me a suit right off

page 2

the rack. We went to Lynchburg, Virginia to buy shoes and to Cincinnati. He retired in 1934, but we had no money to spare, so I couldn't go on to school. So, I went to see a small contractor [P.C. Beatty] and asked him for a job. He said, "Well, you've never worked a day in your life, but I think you will--and I'll give you a job at thirty cents an hour." Well, at the end of the week he said, "You're doing pretty well and I'm going to give you forty instead of thirty." He was a graduate of Stetson University in De Land, Florida. He had developed stucco. He'd patented it. I stayed with him and he's the only man I ever worked for until I got inducted into the Army in 1942. The only man. He died while I was in the Army. When I was inducted, I was making \$125.00 a week, which a good salary in those days.

I did everything when I first went to work for him. I cleaned the lumber, I carried the lumber, I mixed mortar. I did borrow some books that he had and I began to study those at night and I got to the point where I could help him estimate, and I kept his books and at first I didn't get anything for it--a small payroll, you know. I suppose I made myself --well --handy, and he held on to me. As he grew, I grew and he would take me along. We eventually ended up on the West Coast. That's where I was inducted into the Army. Now in those days I didn't know what a lobbyist was, but we must have had one in

page 3

Washington, because during the Depression we were getting government contracts for buildings. We built a post office in Alta Vista, Virginia; one in Martinsville, Virginia; one in Delhi, the seat of Delaware County, New York. We were never without work. In 1935, my boss called me and said, "Many years ago, I worked for Mason Hanger Company, one of the five biggest contractors. They've approached me to come back with them and I'm going, but I'm going to take you with me." He was from Kentucky. He said, "I'll go home and you go home and when I get word of where they've located, I'll call you and you meet me there." Well, he called in three or four days, and I was to meet him in Radford, Virginia. Well, it was only eighty miles from home, but I'd never been in that direction. I went over to Radford and we set up a temporary office. What it was was the first powder plant.

Now we were preparing for something--in 1935!--because we built a \$35 million powder plant there. Why at one time we had 25,000 employees. Of course, around home things were still rough. Every person around my home town who wanted a job I took over there. A lot of them still remember that I pulled them

out of a slump. Then we went to Louisiana and built a powder plant there, and finished that and went to Baraboo, Wisconsin. We built a \$95 million powder plant there--a big one. We got a lot of flack from the locals at Baraboo. That was a German settlement and the government went in there and took over some plush farming sections those German farmers had

page 4

developed, and boy you talk about bitter, they were bitter. Of course it didn't do any good. Well, we were there about a year and a half. We were working under the Corps of Engineers and they notified us that war construction was ninety-five percent complete.

BAKER: This was in late 1941 or early 1942?

BALLARD:: Yes. We were in Louisiana when Pearl Harbor hit. Then we moved up. These places had deferments for government work. We were following the deferment. So we finished up there. Well our general superintendent said, "I'm going to Washington to find out what's up." He came back and said we had a contract to put the wood in fifty baby aircraft carriers for Kaiser. Well I thought, "My God, the wood? Well you can whip that out with a knife." Well, I found out otherwise. We all met in Chicago, caught a train to Seattle and down to Vancouver, Washington. There was a lot more wood in those ships than I'd thought. The flight deck was all fir and that's 534 feet long and 65 feet wide. I've handled that material all my life. As soon as I got there, they had a school. At that time that was an unusual ship because it was fast, I think thirty knots. So I went to school to learn the superstructure of the ship, so I would know where the wood went. We were there a year and we did put in the superstructures of the fifty. Well, they didn't say anything, but I went into the hotel one evening and found a notice in my mailbox to report for induction in

page 5

my home county in West Virginia--the induction was two days before I got my notice! So, I went to the office to talk to Edgar Kaiser, the son of the old man, and he made a long distance call and found out that they had lifted the deferment on the yard. Of course they didn't notify me!

BAKER: When in 1942 did that take place?

BALLARD:: It was November. I went down to the local draft board and asked the lady if I was in trouble and she said, "No, you are in no trouble. Do you want to take the physical here or in West Virginia?" Well, there's where I made my first mistake, trying to outfigure the Army. All the boys who were being inducted on the West Coast were being sent to North Carolina for basic training. Well, some fellas from home (in West Virginia) were sent to Camp Roberts, California. So I said, "I'll get 'em. I'll take my examination here and they'll send me to North Carolina." No way! They sent me to Texas! (Laughter)

BAKER: Where were you in Texas?

BALLARD:: The infantry replacement center near Tyler--Camp Fannon. It was just a temporary post and was torn down after the war. I finished basic and went home and then reported to Fort Meade [Maryland] and then to New York to an embarkation point.

page 6

BAKER: You must have been quite concerned at that point. You were trained as an infantryman and you were headed out.

BALLARD:: Yes, and I knew where I was going. Now when we were at Fort Meade, we lined up for issue of uniforms. If you got khakis, you were going to the Far East, to Japan. If you got OD's [olive drab], you were going to Europe.

BAKER: And that was the first time you knew your destination.

BALLARD:: That's right. And I got OD's.

When I was in basic training, there was a lieutenant there that I had partied with in my home. The first time I walked down the company street, I passed him. I knew who he was, but as a trainee you weren't supposed to talk to officers. In fact, you were supposed to salute PFC's! So, I didn't say a word to him. Well, we were out on a little march to just break us in gently, you know, and I was at the tail end of my platoon. We were taking a little break on the back there, and he said to me, "If you hadn't come with a West Coast outfit, I'd swear you were a fella that I used to know in West Virginia." And I said, "Lieutenant, I recognized you the first day I was in the company street." He said, "I'd recognize you as a fella by the name of Ballard that I knew in West Virginia." I said, "That's me. I recognized you in the first day here, but I wasn't supposed to speak to you, and I didn't." You see I was thirty-six

page 7

years old. I was in the same company with boys who were born the year I graduated from high school. I got a commendation and I was older by four years than any other man that finished the training cycle. But the lieutenant kept telling me, "Fall out on your face. I'll okay it and they will send you to headquarters." I would tell him, "I can't do it, I'm just not made that way." Now if he was supervising a problem exercise and there was a soft spot and my platoon was involved, he would give me that. Like the position of "sniper." I would sit up in the tree all day and throw down bags of flour on the "enemy"--"You're dead," you know. But he told me the day we came off bivouac, the final day, "the shipping list is arranged alphabetically."

BAKER: That meant you would be among the first people to be shipped out? What happened to the others?

BALLARD:: They eventually went. I was in camp with a fella--an old movie star by the name of Frankie Albertson--he was a dickens of a nice fella--he didn't ask for anything (preferential treatment). But one night we were unloading an ammo box--somebody pushed it off and he was taking it and it fell and broke his instep. When we left for Europe he was in the hospital. It was a coincidence. When we got to England a short time later, we went to a movie, "As The Angels Sing," with Frankie Albertson!

BAKER: That really is a coincidence.

page 8

BALLARD:: Yes. Before he was inducted, he had made training films for pay. We would go in the hall for the training films and there's a fella up there, on film, showing you how to clean your rifle--that's Frankie. And here's Frankie sitting down here in the audience with us (Laughter) and we're giving him the business, because Frankie didn't know a bit more about cleaning the rifle than we did. I was hit twice. I was with the Ninth Infantry Division and incidentally, I had a good friend here in the Senate, he was from Montana, he had a drinking problem ...

BAKER: A member of the Senate? Lee Metcalf?

BALLARD: Metcalf. He was in the Ninth Infantry Division. We found each other one day out there in the lobby. He opened up the Senate [served as presiding officer in the early portions of each day's session] a lot. We got to reminiscing. Now when he would get drunk, I was about the only one who could handle him. I'd get a call from someone to come up. I could get him to his office, or to his hideaway [office in the Capitol]. No problem. I always liked him, regardless of his drinking problem.

Well, I got hit twice and finally on December 12, 1944 I got the one that I was hunting--the million-dollar job, the one where they had to send you back. There was a million-dollar one and a ten

page 9

thousand-dollar one. The ten thousand-dollar you stayed there; the million-dollar one, you'd get back home. So I was hospitalized in England and then sent back to Stanton, Virginia Orthopedic Hospital. Then I went to a rehabilitation center at Camp Pickett, Virginia and I ran into *another* movie star, Red Skelton. Now, you talk about a character. We used to drink beer. Red loved beer. He joined us and held get a check every Friday for a thousand dollars from Raleigh Tobacco Company and he bought the beer. We had a tap down at the end of the beer garden, and we would take these Coca-Cola crates and put the V-shaped cups in them and take them down and fill them up.

In the meantime, I had gotten married. I had met a woman who was classification secretary at the Women's Federal Reformatory in my home town. She came over

to see me at Camp Pickett. I didn't tell her that Red was there. I don't know why. But I brought her down, we were going out to the camp, and Red came out of the kitchen. There was no liquor store in town, so you bought your booze from the cook. He was a bootlegger. Red had come out with a couple of bottles wrapped up in his newspapers, and I said to my wife, "By the way, Marie, I want you to meet Red Skelton." She said, "Well, I will say, it looks an awful lot like him." (Laughter) I said, "Look, hell it is Red."

Red was a gentleman. We'd be sitting there drinking beer--he was a private--and he said, "I'm the only man from Hollywood who came

page 10

into service as a private, who will be leaving as a private." We'd be sitting there drinking beer and officers would see him. They'd say, "Red if you're not doing anything, who don't you come by the [officer's] club tonight." He'd tell me, "Now they don't want me, they want Red Skelton." He said, "He didn't ask you did he, Ballard?" And, (Laughter) I said, "No, he didn't ask me." Red never would go.

BAKER: Tell me about your wounds.

BALLARD:: A Jerry [German soldier] shot me down through this leg, right below my knee. We went into a German sugar beet factory and cleaned it out. A little trolley where they pushed the sugar beets across . . . Well, we thought it was clear. I was a sergeant and I had a couple of men with me. As we went in, there was an office and I told one of the boys to clear out the office and the other one to go around to this section here, and I'll go up the stairs. I was up about four steps when it just seemed like if you were asleep and somebody would get your foot and start out of the house with it . . . and I went right down on my knee. And Tito [one of the privates] ran out when he heard the gunfire and he ran by me just tossing hand grenades as he went up. I hollered at him, "Tito, don't tear 'em up too much. If any of them have any shaving gear,

page 11

throw it down to me because I'm gonna need it." So he got 'em and threw me down a blue zipper bag that had a Gillette-type razor made in Austria and a shaving stick.

Of course, I was evacuated. When I got back to the command post, they brought in an ambulance--it was a steel-covered half track--and only two of us came out. And that was a Jerry lieutenant. He was a paratrooper. They had dropped paratroopers in on us and they cut us all to Hell.

BAKER: Now, where was this?

BALLARD:: This was in Durn, Germany, right on the Ruhr River. They picked him up. I had a luger in my pocket, a German luger. Now, I used to sell them for one hundred dollars. The fellas who would bring our chow up on the jeep they'd give you a hundred dollars and not bat an eye. I'd have the money sent

back home. They put the German lieutenant in on a stretcher, but I had walked up into the ambulance and sat down. The ambulance driver said to me, "What was that you had in your pocket." And I said, "A luger." Everybody wanted them. He said, "I can't evacuate you with a luger. You turn it over to me with your name and your company and then I'll mail it to you."

I said, "Let me tell you something, fella. I walked up here, and I can walk back. I think I can drive this truck. And if they

page 12

find you over the bank tomorrow with a couple of Jerry luger shells in you, they're going to say, 'Good God! Jerry got him.' So let's just keep "

Well, the German could speak English and he asked for a cigarette. He had attended Oxford University, and I said, "Why sure." Whoever had shot him had shot him full of holes--he couldn't lift either hand, so I lighted him a cigarette and put it down in his lips and let him inhale and took it out.

The ambulance driver looked around and said, "You people are crazy as hell. Five minutes ago, you were trying to kill each other down in that little old town, and now you are sitting there giving him cigarettes." I said, "If I were in his condition, I'd appreciate someone doing it for me." I said, "Now I don't think he started this damn thing, and I know I didn't. I think it's over for both of us, so we might as well just make the best of it."

So then the lieutenant said, "Are we going to a Catholic or a Protestant Hospital?" I said, "Well, fella where we're going there's Catholics, Protestants, Jewish, blacks--there's everything." He said, "Well, I'd like to have a priest." And I said, "I'll see if I can arrange it." So they pulled us into an aid station and a couple guys came out and took him in and I got out and sat down by a coke stove. They put him on a rack in there and started clipping him for souvenirs. Well, now we rolled dead, but we didn't roll wounded.

page 13

Now he had a switch blade knife that was worth a couple hundred dollars. I know it was silver, but I didn't touch it. They took that.

A doctor came in. I told him to look at the lieutenant first because he was shot all to hell. He said, "I can't help that. You're the American and I have to take care of you first." I said this fellow over here want a priest. The doc asked me what I had in my pocket and I said, a luger. He said, "God damn, they'll be trying to get that from you all the way back." I said, "I know that, they already tried that. Had to nearly shoot an ambulance driver to get this far." So he went back in to call for a priest and he brought a blood plasma box out. He told me to put the pistol and my blue zipper bag in there for protection. I said all right.

So, here came the priest. The priest could speak Jerry [German] and he spoke to the fella in Jerry. The soldier said something to him and he looked up and said, "Which one of you fellas took that watch off of him?" And one of them spoke up and said, "Yeah, I've got it." The priest said, "Well give it back to him, its an

heirloom from his grandfather." So they did. I don't know whatever happened to him.

BAKER: So you were evacuated back to Camp Pickett?

page 14

BALLARD:: Yes. I was in the hospital in England ninety days and then I was flown back to New York. Now there was an Army hospital at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, and when they tagged me, they tagged me Stanton, Virginia for the Woodrow Wilson Orthopedic Hospital. I said, "Well, that's close enough, I can make it from there." Then I went to Camp Pickett for convalescence and then back to Fort Meade and was discharged there.

BAKER: When were you discharged?

BALLARD:: I was discharged in March 1947. And in the meantime, my wife had come to Washington.

BAKER: When were you married?

BALLARD:: In 1935. My wife was originally from Kansas. She took a civil service exam and passed it and they sent her to work at the Federal Reformatory at Alderson. Now, they had very famous inmates. They had Axis Sally, and Tokyo Rose. Machine Gun Kelley's wife, Katherine, and her mother served their sentences there. After I came to Washington to live, we'd drive down to visit. We'd go for a meal with some of the old staff members. I'd drive through. I had District of Columbia tags then, and you should have heard the applause as I drove by the cottages. All the women from Washington recognized the tags.

page 15

Well when I got discharged from Meade, I went back home and then we decided--she was living in Washington--we'd go back home. Well, she was working in the HOLC Building down at First and Indiana Avenue. The Bureau of Prisons had the fifth floor there. I walked down the street with her from 116 C Street and passed the Senate Office Building. I asked her, "What is this building?" And she said, "The Senate Office Building." And I said, well I'll walk down to work with you and when I come back I'll go in there. I know a senator. And I did. I know I crossed the park and went in the Delaware Avenue door and went up to the office and went in. The senator was in, about 9:30. We went back and visited. He was glad to see me.

BAKER: Who was the senator?

BALLARD:: Chapman Revercomb of West Virginia. He asked me what I was going to do. I said we were going back home.

BAKER: How had you come to know him?

BALLARD:: Well now, when I was a youngster, I was active in Republican politics down home. An old friend of my father's who was sort of a political king-maker. In other words, if you wanted to run for public office, you'd better come by and see him. If you didn't, the word was out on you. Now when I was a youngster, I used to write letters for him. He owned a hotel there at home, he was a postmaster

page 16

and a political wheel. I got acquainted with all these politicians through him. The vice chairman of the Republican National Committee for many years was from home.

BAKER: Was that a Republican county?

BALLARD:: Oh, no! No, you had to wake up people to open up a polling place on election day. All Democratic. Postively Democratic. There were very few Republicans, very few. As I say, it was hard to hold an election. You couldn't get enough Republicans to staff the polls. Of course, my father was a Republican, and I just got associated with them. Now, Senator Revercomb had been elected in 1942. There was a senator by the name of Matt Neely here for many, many years [1923-29, 1931-41]. He went back [in 1940] and he ran for governor so he could keep his political machine together. He got elected governor and then he ran for the Senate [in 1948] again. Well, I don't know. The people, the powers, didn't want it. They wanted him to serve his term as governor. They got Revercomb to run for the Senate. They told him it wouldn't cost him a penny just to fill the ticket. The day of the election [in 1942], he went to bed--he had no idea of being elected, he was just a stalking horse. His wife got up the next day to fix breakfast and turned on the radio and got the election results and went back to the bed and shook him and said, "Wake up, senator." He still couldn't believe it, he was a senator!

page 17

He asked me what we were going to do and I told him we were going home. He asked what Marie was going to do. And I said, "She's going back." He said, "Well it'll take thirty days to get a transfer through, I'll help her, but in the meantime you'd better stay here. We talked a while and he called Louis Reed, his administrative assistant, who came and got me. He took me through the building, over to the Capitol. I didn't know what I was doing--didn't question it. I went to one room--held up my hand, signed my name here, you know. Over to the Disbursing Office, and so forth. You see, I didn't plan to be here more than a few days anyhow, so I didn't care what it was. I took that attitude.

We went down to the basement, down the corridor, and here's a sign "Capitol Police." Of course, naturally, I said, "What are we going to do in here Mr. Reed, get fingerprinted?" I figured everybody who goes to work for the government gets fingerprinted. And he said, "No, no you're going to join the Capitol Police Force." Well, I had a *cane*! (Laughter) I hadn't been out of the Army hospital . . . I said,

"Capitol Police! Now I'll tell you, that senator's known me since I was six years old, and I have no police experience. I don't want to get into anything that would embarrass him. Also, to tell you the truth, Mr. Reed, all my experience has been on the other side of the law, not with 'em." And he said, "Yeah, he knows. He's not afraid of the embarrassment because he said to put you on the Capitol Police Force. Now it's up to you."

page 18

You can go in here with me, or you can go out that door. I can't take you back to the office. Make up your mind." I said, "Well, let's go in." At three o'clock that afternoon I was standing roll call in a uniform over here!

BAKER: Now this was May 16, 1947.

BALLARD:: That's right. The lieutenant called me out for "North Park." Well, you know I didn't say anything. There were only five of us. But when we walked outside the building, I asked him where North Park was. And he motioned down toward Union Station and he said, "That's it down there. That was my first post. So I just walked."

BAKER: That was the only briefing you had?

BALLARD:: That was *it*! Now this was three or four o'clock in the afternoon. Twelve o'clock [midnight] came. I was at the corner down by the side of Union Station waiting on a relief. Well, nobody came. About 12:30, here came the squad car. Midnight lieutenant. "Where in the hell have you been?" "I've just been here waiting on a relief." You know in the Army, when you're on guard duty you don't leave your post. He said, "Didn't they tell you you wouldn't be relieved?" I said, "No." The next day the lieutenant told me, "Regardless of where you are, at quarter of twelve, walk toward this building." So, I didn't get stuck anymore.

page 19

You had no training; nothing. They would introduce you to the rest of the men. But, I enjoyed it. I tried to apply myself. There were things to be done, and I'd do them. I didn't hesitate to offer myself. And I soon learned the system, "take care of the employees." Take care of the senators and the employees. Of course, in those days, it was small, just one building, there weren't many employees. Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia had five in his office. You got acquainted with them. You helped them out any way that you could. Well, of course, all of the men did.

BAKER: At that time, were there separate House and Senate details?

BALLARD:: Oh, strictly.

BAKER: And you were on the Senate detail.

BALLARD:: Yes. Now, in the Capitol Building, you had House and Senate. But prior to World War II, it was strictly Senate and House. For instance, if you were assigned to the Senate Office Building prior to World War II, and you got inducted into the service, you got paid for your accumulated leave. You didn't if you were assigned to the Capitol Building. You didn't if you were assigned to the House Office Building. But there was an old lieutenant in charge of the detail, by the name of James. His father was a member of Congress. They were from Danville, Virginia. They owned Dan River Mills. He

page 20

ran this relief and he got Byrd of Virginia to put through a resolution that any person assigned to the Senate Office Building and inducted into the Army, got paid for their leave. Whether they had any or not! James would fill out a letter, send them to the Disbursing Office, and they would get paid.

BAKER: Would they get the maximum?

BALLARD:: They'd get everything that James let 'em have! Maybe they didn't have two days leave. James would sign them up for thirty days leave. Now he later went blind.

He and Senator Harry Truman were buddy buddies. They were poker players. They used to play in the guard room here in the Senate Office Building. And they had their bottle. Now, as I say, James was from a very wealthy family and his mother finally had to take his money and put it in trust. He would get drunk and decide to go to Canada. The only way you traveled in those days was by train. Now, he didn't just go down to Union Station and buy a ticket. He went down to Union Station and chartered a Pullman car! He used to tell about he and Truman and some more of them--they'd be drinking. Now a fellow by the name of Royal Copeland--a senator from New York--was chairman of the Rules Committee. He had a rule passed by the Rules Committee that there would be no drinking in the guard room!

page 21

BAKER: Specifically because he knew what was going on with Truman?

BALLARD:: That's right! So they would be playing poker and needed a drink and Truman would say, well, let's go up to my office, Copeland has nothing to do with it. So they'd go up and get their booze and come back and play. Now, the day that Truman went to the White House and cleaned out his office--he had Room 200--he stopped by the old Senate guardroom, had a bottle in his hand, put it on the desk, and said, "Boys, I'd like to stop and help you with this, but they won't let me." There were two Secret Service agents behind him.

Of course, I wasn't here then, but James used to tell it. James went blind. He died as a lieutenant. He'd come to work in a cab. We'd meet him at the cab. And in the evening when he got ready to leave we'd take him out and put him in a cab and

send him home. But he knew what was going on. There was no way to fool him. He had a telephone, and he had his system. He knew every turn. A student asked me one time, "Why are you trying to tell me that that lieutenant is blind, because I know he's not and the rest of us know he's not." I said, "Well, I don't know how you found out; he is. He is stone blind." If he thought a fellow was sneaking off a post, he'd call the post.

BAKER: At that time, how many lieutenants were there?
page 22

BALLARD:: Just three.

BAKER: One for each shift?

BALLARD:: One for each detail. House, Capitol, and Senate details. Now, as I say, on the Capitol detail, third shift, we had eight men. That's all we had. Nowadays, we have eight in the Guard Room. Of course, after the riots in 1968, that's when they built up the force. Back then we got along pretty well. If an administrative assistant to a senator wanted a bottle at night, we knew where to get it. All he had to do was to call down and say, "I've got something going and can't turn a trick without it. Do you know where I can get a bottle?"

BAKER: And you'd get the bottle and take it up to him?

BALLARD:: Oh, yeah. On the outside of the door. Knock on the door, leave the bottle and go. The next day he'd come by the Guard Room. "Who brought the bottle up?" "So and so." "Here, give him this." He'd leave a twenty dollar bill and go on about his business.

We had an officer who always carried a bottle with him. He was working the C Street door one Sunday. Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky had had a long sick spell. He came back one Sunday to his office to pick up a few odds and ends and he came down from his

page 23

office to that door and he asked Dempsey, "Do you mind if I sit down here for a few minutes, I feel kind of woozy." And of course, Dempsey said he didn't mind. But he said, "If the phone rings, senator, tell 'em I'll be right back." He went out to his car, he got a bottle, he brought it in, he had some paper cups in the desk, and he poured some out and said, "Try this, senator." The senator took a nice big slug and said well he'd better try another one now. So he fixed him up with another healthy one.

BAKER: Hopefully good Kentucky bourbon.

BALLARD: That's right! The senator said a while later, "I feel pretty good now. If you'll be kind enough to go out there and see if you can stop me a cab, I'll go home. They got him a cab. At that time I was a sergeant. Well, Monday I was at the door

BAKER: When was this? When did you become a sergeant?

BALLARD:: In 1954. Senator Cooper came in on Monday morning looking for the officer who had helped him. I told him he was on the subway [post]. So later in the day, making my rounds, I stopped by the subway, and I asked, "Did Senator Cooper find you?" He said, "Yes." He reached and he popped out a \$20 bill. I said, "What!" And he told me the whole story. "He wanted to pay me back and he came by today and gave me a \$20 bill." And I said, "Well, that's all

page 24

right." You weren't afraid of senators; they weren't afraid of you. Anything you could do to help them, you did it. It was a family affair.

Senator Joseph McCarthy. I'll bet when McCarthy died [1957] that the Capitol Police--they force was composed of all students then--I'll bet they owed him a thousand or fifteen hundred dollars. Of course, he was a soft touch.

BAKER: They wouldn't hesitate to go to him?

BALLARD:: Oh, no. "Can you let me have ten until payday, senator?" "Well, go up and see Mary." And they would go up to see Mary and she'd give them a check for fifteen or twenty dollars. And, of course, a lot of times they paid him back and a lot of times they didn't. He never carried money with him. We'd be standing on the street and a cab would let him out. The senator would turn around and say, "Would you pay the cab and come up and see Mary?" You were always glad to do it, because you always got a dollar more. And a dollar was pretty good sized then, because we weren't making much money. You took care of them all.

BAKER: Did you have favorites? Were there senators, particularly in those early years, from the time you started up through the time you became a sergeant in 1954, that were special favorites of yours?

page 25

BALLARD: Well, I'll tell you, one thing I learned that I wished everybody could have had the advantage of was I came here a rabid Republican, naturally, because I'd been fighting a Democratic district all my life. But, you know, it didn't take me long to change. There were good ones and bad ones in both parties. There were some that I thought just as much of that were Democrats as I did Republicans.

Senator Bob Taft--now he would walk down the corridor and he never spoke to you. He never spoke to another senator. He was always preoccupied. But when he got on crutches, you remember he got cancer, he would come down to the door

and wait for his car--he would sit there at the desk--I'd be there. And he said to me, "It's a shame that I didn't get on these things a long time ago. I'm seeing so many nice people that I never recognized before." I liked Taft, his office was awful nice--a good staff.

You know a lot of times you could tell whether a member was likely to be reelected by the quality of his office staff. I've seen people come out of [Senator Millard] Tydings' office nearly in tears. You knew they were going to defeat him. They'd set their teeth when they came out of there and they were going back there to work against him. And, of course, he was so near, representing Maryland, he had so many visitors. He had a woman in there--she was terrible. Now

page 26

[Senator J. Glenn] Beall, Sr.'s office [also of Maryland] was exactly opposite. You could go to Beall's office and get anything.

BAKER: Why were people going out of Tydings' office in tears?

BALLARD:: Because his aide had ripped them up for even coming by with a problem like that. They'd come out and say, "I never got such treatment in my life as I did from that woman." You could nearly judge the office by the visitors when they came out.

BAKER: There were not that many on the force during that immediate post-war period.

BALLARD:: No. When I came here there were only 157 on the Capitol Police roll. Now there were only about 100 of them working! About 50 of them never came to town. They were on the roll. Now, I know a lieutenant who was a lieutenant for 18 years. I saw him twice. He operated a restaurant in Biloxi, Mississippi. He was under Senator Jim Eastland. Now he came here a couple of times and brought us some shrimp, but . . .

BAKER: He never put on a uniform?

BALLARD:: Oh, no!

page 27

I went to the captain's office. I had something that a lot of them didn't have--I could type. I don't know how many jobs I've got on the Capitol Police Force because I could type. The Democrats took over in the 81st Congress, in 1949, and had a new captain--of course, captains changed with the administration.

BAKER: Did the lieutenants also change?

BALLARD:: Oh, yes, because they were prime jobs. In other words a member would bring his appointee down and ask him, "What job do you want?" "Well, I like that one with the gold braid." "Okay."

BAKER: How far down did it go?

BALLARD:: It went down to sergeants. The reason that I stayed on the third relief of the night shift was because the new appointments didn't want night work. They wanted day work and you were pretty safe in night work.

BAKER: And you recognized the job security of night work from the beginning?

BALLARD:: You're darn right, and I stayed there until the Democrats took over [in 1949] and they appointed a new captain. He interviewed some people for his office. He interviewed me and took

page 28

me over there. Well, I had no patronage. You see my member, Revercomb, got defeated in November 1948. I knew he couldn't win, not from West Virginia as a Republican.

The captain, Olin Cavness, who was appointed was from Arkansas, under Senator J. William Fulbright. And he got me over there on a trial basis--he told me that, and I was over there several weeks and he told me he'd like to keep me here. "Who's your patronage?" And I said, "Well, captain, I don't have any." And he said, "Well how'd you stay here all this time without patronage?" I said, "Well, nobody said anything about going, and I like it." He asked me if I couldn't get one to the West Virginia senators. I said, "No, each one of them has a man on the police force," and I named them. "If I went up and asked them for patronage, they'd toss me out the window," which would be right and I wouldn't dare do it. A couple or three weeks later he went up to the Sergeant-at-Arms, who was Joe Duke, to see if Duke would let him keep me here. He came back down and he said, "Duke said he didn't care. if I wanted you in the office, it was all right with him." Then, in the last year he was captain, he and Duke fell out over . . . They got to throwing Senator Carl Hayden against Fulbright and that didn't work out.

BAKER: In what way did they throw one senator against the other?

page 29

BALLARD:: Duke was a demanding person. He would call Cavness and demand something. So one day Cavness bucked him. So Duke said, "Well, I'm going to have to call this to Mr. Hayden's attention." Well, Cavness was a tough cookie himself and he said, "Well, don't call me anymore, call J. William Fulbright." That did it! From then on, their dealings in the office were with me. I was the Senate police clerk. We had a House clerk and I was the Senate clerk.

Well, I went back to the captain and said, "Mr. Duke seems to be calling me." He said, "I don't give a damn as long as he doesn't call me." Well, Duke took a liking to me. I don't know why. The Republicans took over in the 83rd Congress [1953-54]. I made sergeant. I was in the Senate Office Building and Duke worked me up. I had no sponsor. I got the lieutenantancy. I was in the Capitol Building.

BAKER: What year did you make lieutenant?

BALLARD:: It must have been in '58 or '59, and of course, we had captains from downtown by then, because Duke did not want any more Senate-appointed captains, that he would have to buck a senator. He went downtown [to the Metropolitan Washington Police Department] and brought them up. Then the last captain from downtown died unexpectedly.

page 30

Now Duke was a tough cookie. He demanded perfection. Well, I demanded that on the police force, because that's what he wanted and that's what I gave him.

BAKER: You were really running the entire Senate detail as clerk.

BALLARD:: Yes. Well, some of the boys--the students --decided that business as usual was over. So they played with a newspaperman by the name of John Lindsay and they parked John right at the Senate steps to the Capitol so he didn't have to park out in the press section. If John would write a story about me and my tough attitude. I got a tip one day to watch for the Washington Post Metro section the next morning. I did. Not by name . . . it wasn't me by name, but it reported that I demanded that Capitol police officers go in certain entrances and I demanded that they wear certain uniforms. Well, of course, Joe Duke read it. He called John in the Senate Press Gallery. "I want to know who that was about, John." Well, of course, John told him. Well he called the chief, a fellow named Sullivan who was a pretty rough cookie himself. He said, "I want you to go to all details and notify them that we want discipline." A few days later Mr. Duke called me upstairs and said, "I am tired of these captains coming in here, working five years, getting another retirement, and we are going to start promoting captains from the ranks and you are the first captain."

page 31

BAKER: Now in what year was that?

BALLARD:: That was in 1962. And, of course, I couldn't believe my ears, because they'd always brought them in. It was a choice job. He said, "Here's the badges."

BAKER: How many captains were there on the force at that time?

BALLARD:: There were none. I was it.

BAKER: I see. There was a chief and one captain.

BALLARD:: Right. I worked under a captain from Arkansas, one from Pennsylvania, he was a retired state trooper. As I say, after they brought in a chief from downtown, he brought captains from downtown, and the last one died, and that's when the first captain was made from the ranks of the Capitol Police Force. And that was me. And then, from then on, as it grew, of course other captains were made, but I was the first one. I was proud of that.
[End of Interview #1]

page 32

Leonard Ballard

Inspector, United States Capitol Police (1947-1984)

Interview #2

(Friday, August 26, 1983)

Interviewed by Richard A. Baker

BAKER: Today it might be useful to begin by focusing on your years as a private and then following your career up through the various ranks. So we would start by discussing the years 1947 to 1954. That brings to mind the event of July 12, 1947, shortly after you'd arrived--the attempted shooting of Senator John Bricker by a disgruntled former Capitol policeman down in the Senate subway.

BALLARD: In those days, we didn't have a post at the Capitol end of the Senate subway because we didn't have many men. As I've said, there were 157 on the rolls, but only about 100 working. They were policemen, but they were assigned to senators. Even today, you have doormen who are on the doormen's payroll but they are responsible to individual senators.

To go back a little bit--Senator Revercomb came out one day and it was pouring down rain. He was my senator and he had parked right across the street. I went into the Guard Room and got him a raincoat and put it on him and walked to the car with him. He said, "Well, I'd prefer that you were not out in this rain." I knew what he had in mind. I said, "Well senator, I'm out here when the sun shines, too!" So the next day I went up to his office and asked Mr. Reed

page 33

[his assistant], "Does the senator have some idea of putting me on a door [adjacent to the Senate chamber or galleries]?" And he said, "Yes." I said, "Well, I don't want on a door, because the doormen leave when the members leave, regardless." When a member was defeated or died, the doorman left with him because those jobs were at a premium and I thought if I stayed on the police force I could stay here. I'd begun to like it here.

BAKER: What was the comparison in salary between doormen and police officers?

BALLARD: About the same.

BAKER: So one of the advantages of a doorman's job would be the hours. If the Senate was not in session . . .

BALLARD: That's it. The Senate had short sessions in those days. And then, you only worked about six months. The Senate usually went out for the rest of the year in July. And you had another job at home. Half of the men--a lot of them that I knew, and particularly railroad men had this arrangement. A railroader

could work one day a month and keep his rights. Well, they'd go back home and work that one day to establish their rights and come back. Then when the Senate went out, they'd go back to full at their job.

page 34

But I had in mind then of staying on the Capitol Police Force regardless of whether it was patronage or whatever it was. I enjoyed it. I enjoyed the building. I thought I could make myself available and be of need to somebody and I would stay here.

BAKER: When did you begin to have that attitude?

BALLARD: When I was here about two weeks. I told my wife one night to hold up on that transfer back to West Virginia. "This job is a good job, it's an interesting job, it suits me, and I think that I could make a career of it." And I did! I made myself available. I studied the building. I studied the job. I got to be acting sergeant about three months after I arrived.

BAKER: You were about thirty-nine years old at that time.

BALLARD: I was thirty-nine.

BAKER: So you were a lot older than most of the privates on the force.

BALLARD: When I first came here, I wasn't--with the exception of the students. The students were younger. But the average person who wasn't a student was as old as I was and some older. During World War II it was hard to get men for the police force. They had to pick up old retired men who had retired from other jobs. Retired from Metropolitan [Washington Police Department] and other retirees.

page 35

BAKER: Did those other retirees have police skills and police experience?

BALLARD: A lot of them did.

BAKER: They knew what they were doing?

BALLARD: Yes. Well What police work you had, which was very little There was no police work. Even today, at sundown, the Hill (population) is gone. You don't have shops, traffic, stores. The employees have gone. It settles down. Now, we have a patrol detail that chases cars. (Laughter)

BAKER: Well, back then the men carried weapons--revolvers?

BALLARD: Oh, yes.

BAKER: Did they have training in the use of those revolvers?

BALLARD: No, (Laughter) of course not. Now, we weren't allowed to take our weapons home with us [as is permitted today]. We had a rack. When you came in at the end of a tour of duty you had your name, like a mail slot. You put your weapon in there, changed your clothes, and went home. The clerk on the next relief checked those slots to see that all the guns were in and he locked that section. That's how they discovered that I didn't go in my first night [on the force]. My weapon wasn't in and they started hunting me.

page 36

We had no training. Actually, we were better off. We provided a service for the members and that's what we thought we were supposed to do. We didn't know we were supposed to arrest people. If a member was a little under the weather, we took him home, or if a staff member was a little under the weather, [we'd say] "Don't drive that car. Give us the keys. We'll take you home." If a member forgot where he'd put his automobile, we'd look around . . . go downtown . . . we'd find it. We didn't know that we were [supposed to be traditional] policemen.

BAKER: And that attitude continued for how long?

BALLARD: For me for as long as I've been here.

BAKER: And for the force in general?

BALLARD: Up until we got rid of students. Well, they said we had to, because when the riots broke out in 1968 and we were supposed to go out on the street, the students wouldn't go. They'd tell you, "I've got an exam tomorrow and I'm studying." Well, there wasn't anything you could do about it because you couldn't buck the members. That's when Chief Powell went before the Police Board and got permission to do away with the patronage. We then set up recruiting and training programs. We went "police-wise" from then on. Now we still have some patronage positions in the House of Representatives . . . about twenty-two, but none in the Senate.

page 37

BAKER: I'm interested in getting back to our discussion of the doormen and the difference between the police and the doormen. Did the doormen back in the late 1940s and early 1950s feel that they had any responsibility to anyone other than to their own members?

BALLARD: No. They left when the Senate adjourned. A lot of them chauffeured senators. We had a lot of old senators in those days. Joe Duke, who you probably remember as the Sergeant-at-Arms, came here as a chauffeur for Henry Fountain Ashurst, the first senator elected from Arizona. He was on the door. Of course, Senator [Carl] Hayden picked him up, not as a chauffeur, but as an employee and worked him in different places and finally worked him in as Sergeant-at-Arms.

BAKER: Was it common then for doormen to move up as Joe Duke did? Or was he an exception?

BALLARD: No. It wasn't common. Some of them worked in their member's offices. And some police did, as well. Quite a few of them did. And I thought I was maybe not doing what I was supposed to do so I approached Senator Revercomb one time and noted that the majority of the men worked in the offices. He said, "Don't you work eight hours a day, six days a week?" I said, "Yeah, that's my schedule." And he said, "That's enough."

page 38

In those days there were no disturbances around the doors. Oh, we did have one woman who created some trouble. She would go into the gallery with her pass. She was smart, she didn't go into the same gallery every time. She'd get in. She had a dress that opened up . . . purple attire. She'd spread her wings and attract attention. We'd have to take her out.

BAKER: Did she have a special message that she was trying to deliver?

BALLARD: Yeah. She never got it delivered! She'd always get it started and the doorman would run in and bring her out.

BAKER: So the doormen had some security responsibilities?

BALLARD: Yes. That's how the Capitol Police back in the history of how it started . . . a doorman arrested a drunk in the gallery and took him out and took him before a magistrate and they found out that this doorman had no police powers, so the man was discharged. That's when they decided to give police powers to Capitol policemen, not the doormen.

We always have had one man outside the gallery. Back in the days when we had very few people, we [even then] always had one man there.

page 39

I always thought that in working men you had to know as much about them as possible. Their family life, their personal life . . . If you knew that, you knew where to work them, when to work them. For many years, I had a fella--he's a lawyer now--from New Mexico. Bernie worked the gallery. I'd get a new man on my detail and I'd put him up in the gallery with Bernie. Now, in four days time I knew what they had for breakfast every morning. He would pick 'em clean (Laughter).

BAKER: That was the orientation.

BALLARD: That's right. Then I'd take them out of there and I'd assign them according to where they were best suited.

BAKER: This was when you were a captain?

BALLARD: Yes, and when I was a lieutenant, too. When I was in charge of the Capitol detail. They often wondered how I knew so much about them! I knew Bernie would make a great lawyer, because he could find out all about you. I had a man once who had only been there a short time and I said to him one morning, "Has your wife had the baby yet?" He said, "She had it yesterday." I said, "What are you doing in here today." He said, "Well, I don't have any leave." I told him, "You go home because your wife needs you." He's still on the police force. He tells them all about that time. He hasn't forgotten it. It

page 40

certainly helps you if you know your men and you have to know them in a job like the Capitol. Whether they are interested in their work, whether they have a sense of humor. You have to know their background and then you know whether they can approach a congressman in the right manner, or whether they can work out on traffic and with tourists.

The tourists are entitled to courtesy. They've driven for days to come here to the Capitol and they shouldn't be treated with a rattle from a policeman, "Move it on, get going." I used to get my traffic men . . . they liked it better outside than inside. I used to use a system if a fella didn't want to get along with the program . . . in the winter time, I'd go through the locker room and I'd find him back there with undershorts on . . . and he's expecting to go up in the gallery and I'd send him out on the East Front. And the next morning he'd come in . . . he'd have long johns on, well, I'd send him to the gallery. After a couple of days, he'd come back to me and he'd say, "You're going to give me pneumonia." I'd say, well when are you going to fall in line with the program. "Well [he'd say], it would be better wouldn't it." I'd say, "Yeah." He'd fall in line.

BAKER: Which years were you in charge of the Capitol detail?

page 41

BALLARD: I went over there in '54 . . . '55 . . . '56, I went back over to the Capitol in '57 and I stayed over there until I came over here [became an inspector] which was '73. I went into the captain's office when the Democrats took over the Congress in 1955 and I was there four years as Senate clerk. And then I came back over to the Senate detail, and I was on the Senate detail about three or four years and then Mr. [Joe] Duke took me over to the Capitol and kept me there.

BAKER: That's when you became captain in '62.

BALLARD: And I made lieutenant over there [in 1958].

BAKER: At this point, let's go back to the late '40s and early '50s.

BALLARD: You said something a minute or so ago about the Bricker shooting. Senator John Bricker of Ohio . . . as I say, we didn't have a post there . . . a former

Capitol policeman who had lost his patronage . . . he'd been under [Senator James] Huffman of Ohio. Huffman was defeated by Bricker. This fella had some debts and Bricker had been governor and I think in a routine way had passed legislation that didn't help this boy. He went to Bricker and asked him for a patronage job. And, of course, Bricker wouldn't give it to him. He wouldn't pick up another member's patronage. That was routine.

page 42

He [the gunman] lived up on East Capitol Street. I don't think the fella intended to kill Bricker. I think . . . he was just the length of the [subway] car. I think even a trained Capitol policeman, and he didn't have any training, would have done a better job than that. He shot at Bricker three times and, of course, he missed him three times. Bricker got in the car and the motorman took him over to the Capitol Building.

Well, the motorman came back [to the office building] on his routine trip and he picked up Kaiser [the gunman], and took him to the Capitol. But the statement of the day was, the motorman said to Kaiser, "You know you are not supposed to be down in the subway shooting at senators!" (Much Laughter) Kaiser had worked the midnight shift of the Capitol detail. There was a fella [an officer stationed] at the Senate Door [East Front Senate wing of the Capitol] who had worked with Kaiser. The word got out and the captain came down and he got descriptions of Kaiser and he went upstairs . . . when the motorman told him that the fella had gotten off the car and had gone upstairs . . .

BAKER: In the Capitol?

BALLARD: Yes, the Senate Door. When the captain went up there, the man at the door, when he heard the description, "Hell, that's Kaiser, and he just went out of here. He lives up on East Capitol Street." So the policeman got with the captain and a Metropolitan

page 43

detective that was assigned up here, Mike Dowd, and then he stayed . . . They went up East Capitol Street to a rooming house and he was there and they brought him back down . . .

BAKER: He didn't offer any resistance?

BALLARD: No, no, no. They brought him back down to the Capitol and interviewed him, took him down and booked him, then sent him to Saint E's [Elizabeth's Hospital] as a mental case. Now Bricker wouldn't appear against him. They performed a lobotomy on him. He never got out of Saint E's. He lived about a year and died.

I don't have to tell you. The next day there was a post at the Capitol end of the subway--a desk and an officer. We had a new post. You'd be surprised how many new posts have popped up on this Hill through little incidents like that one.

BAKER: Was there another post at the office building end of the subway?

BALLARD: There is always was one there. That was for tourist information and to be sure that the people didn't get on . . . that the senators got a seat on the subway. It wasn't too important on this [Capitol] end. The officer would usually hold the back seat for the senators.

BAKER: Why the back seat?

page 44

BALLARD: It was convenient for them to come down. It was the first seat. We always called it the back seat. We usually stationed a man there who knew the senators.

Senator Gordon Allott of Colorado, the day he was sworn in, I was at the subway--I was a sergeant--[January 3, 1955] I was there just to be sure that the new members got over. Well, after election year, I would study the newspapers and available photographs if I could to know 'em when they hit the Hill. I saw Allott coming down the hall at a trot and I told the operator of the car, "Here comes a new senator, hold it." I said, "Come on senator, he's waiting on you." And the minute he got in the car, I said, "Okay, take him." Well, he came back a little later in the day and he said, "Since I wasn't officially a senator when you put me on that car, how did you know? You said, 'Take a seat senator'." I said, "Yeah, I knew that, but I knew it wasn't going to be but a few minutes until you were one, and that's the treatment you get here." He said, "Will I get used to it?" I said, "It depends on you." We got to be good friends. His wife was a very fine woman--friendly. He was sort of a gun buff. I arranged for him to go out to our range with some of our officers. He enjoyed that.

BAKER: Did he do that a lot?

BALLARD: Oh, yes. Russell of Georgia was a gun buff.

page 45

BAKER: Did he go to the range also?

BALLARD: Oh yeah, yeah. After we got one.

BAKER: When did you get one?

BALLARD: In the '60s, when the Rayburn [House Office] Building opened in 1965. Very modern. In fact the FBI came up and looked it over several times, it was more modern than theirs. We had a lot of members who enjoyed it.

BAKER: They could go over and fire off as much ammunition as they wished?

BALLARD: Oh, yeah. Good public relations. You didn't know when one of them was going to get on the [Appropriations] Committee.

BAKER: Well, it must be one of the most difficult problems for a Capitol policeman to learn to recognize all the members. Particularly on the House side where there are so many more of them, but even here in the Senate.

BALLARD: It's not hard if you work at it, and I worked at it because I wanted to stay here. I studied their pictures; I studied their history. One day I was standing outside the Senate chamber and the members were coming out and going back to their offices. Senators

page 46

[Philip] Hart, [Daniel] Inouye, and Bob Dole came out. I was standing there and I punched the [elevator] button for them, but there was a little delay. And I said, "When you three fellas were goldbricking up in Battle Creek, Michigan did you ever think you'd be standing here pressing the senators' elevator [button]? They laughed and they said, "We were all in the same ward in Battle Creek [Veteran's Hospital]. How'd you know that?" I said, "Well, it's my business to know all about you fellas."

On the House side, a member has to be there at least fifteen terms before he even gets consideration from the other members, so you don't pay too much attention to them. They don't amount to much. Now, a senator--so many of them come here--they don't demand it, but they expect it. You'd be surprised how many have been governors, and a governor gets a lot of attention in his state. In fact, a lot of former governors come here and they are disappointed, they're ready to go home because nobody pays any attention to them.

BAKER: A very different type job.

BALLARD: That's right. And if you pay a little attention to them, you've got it made. They're going to remember you. We worked a regular tour of duty on Saturdays up until 1968. One Saturday I was standing outside the Senate chamber. As you come out of the Senate chamber, through the east door by the bank of

page 47

elevators, that light fixture up there is a [model of a] pineapple. Senator Hiram Fong of Hawaii used to go into the Marble Room every Saturday and read the Hawaii papers. He knew that we locked the chamber doors at 12:30. Well, he came out, he was always friendly. And I said, "Well, senator, our forefathers were pretty farsighted, weren't they? When they built this [wing of the Capitol] in 1857, they knew Hawaii would eventually be a state because they put a pineapple up here." He said, "What!"

BAKER: Where is that located?

BALLARD: Just as you come out of that east entrance, it's up there. He said, "Are you going to be here for a few minutes?" And I said yes. He said, "I'll be right back." He wasn't gone to long and he came back with an aide and he had two pineapples. They had the Republican photographer, [Arthur] "Scotty" [Scott], and he said, "You suppose you could get me a ladder?" I called John Price downstairs [chief janitor] and told him to come up with a six-foot stepladder. The senator got up and held one of the pineapples up by the fixture and Scotty took all kinds of pictures, with the pineapple and the senator, and then he got down and he wanted to take a picture of me with the pineapple and him. Then he said, "You like pineapple?" And I said, "I love pineapple," and I do! He said, "Now, you take this home with you." The aide said, "No, you can't do that senator. I borrowed that from Linda." The senator said, "Now you let me make it

page 48

right with Linda. The captain gets his pineapple." And then, a little later on, he sent me a clipping from the Honolulu Bulletin front page with the picture and a story of the pineapple, and there's the senator up with the pineapple. I made it a point . . . in fact that's one reason I stayed here. I asked a girl . . . now, of course, [Joe] Duke had a guiding hand over me . . . I asked a girl, Evelyn Raper, she came here from North Carolina and was in Duke's office [as chief clerk] for a long time. She had an elderly mother who came up here often and I looked after her. One day I was having coffee with her in the snack bar and she said she was getting ready to leave. She asked me how long I was going to stay and I said I didn't know. I said, "Evelyn, I don't know how I've managed to stay this long." She said, "Well, I'll tell you one way. When they have a meeting of the Patronage Committee, of course, I sit in as secretary. Temporary names are typed in red and they'll start down and they'd come to your name and they'll say 'Well now wait a minute, I don't know, my office said something about him the other day. Let's move down here to this next one.' Now, that's one of the reasons you've stayed here."

BAKER: Who was on the Patronage Committee in those years?

BALLARD: That's the best kept secret in town. On the House side you knew who it was. It was part of the program.

page 49

BAKER: Did it change in the Senate from year to year?

BALLARD: Oh, yes.

BAKER: And how often did they meet?

BALLARD: Well, of course, that's up to them. That was something else you never knew. You weren't going to get it out of Joe Duke's office. I did know that a

fella by the name of [Senator Herman] Welker from Idaho was on it. And [Senator Edward] Martin of Pennsylvania was on it because he had the captain's patronage position. It was hard to find out. There wasn't much reason to find out. If you tended to your business they weren't going to bother you anyhow.

BAKER: If you were there under the patronage of a member, what could the committee do to you anyhow?

BALLARD: Yes. The students had their members and they didn't care who the Patronage Committee was.

BAKER: Was one of the functions of the Patronage Committee to divide up the positions and reassign to various members? To take away, or give?

BALLARD: They gave a member a certain amount of patronage--an elevator, a policeman, a doorman, a post office [employee]. Say a member had a fellow who wanted a job, say as a policeman. The member

page 50

could call the Rules Committee to trade a post office job for a police job. My member didn't have a police job [to offer me in 1947] but he said, "I think I can borrow it for thirty days." But who the members of the Patronage Committee were was the best kept secret.

BAKER: Probably the chairman of the Rules Committee?

BALLARD: Oh, yes. See, the Rules Committee is not much of a committee--it's a housekeeping committee. Over in the House, the Rules Committee is the most powerful on the Hill.

BAKER: But on the Senate side the Rules Committee does have a certain kind of power in its patronage role?

BALLARD: Yes. Among the members. "We can do you a favor."

BAKER: It's probably a thankless job to be chairman of the Rules Committee.

BALLARD: It is. Senator Welker told me once, "Any job is open but the blind lieutenant. Now, that job is not open. It belongs to [Senator Harry] Byrd and we're not going to take it from him."

BAKER: You discussed the galleries and doormen earlier. That raises the question of racial segregation in those early years. Was there sort of a *de facto* kind of segregation in seating in the galleries. I have heard that it occurred earlier in the century.

page 51

BALLARD: No, there wasn't. You always had your Family Gallery. Then, later on, Mr. Duke set aside a "Secretaries Gallery" for members' secretaries. On many occasions, a member would ask his staff to come over and cover the proceedings. Floor privileges were limited. Only administrative assistants could come on the floor, but finally so many of them started coming over, that they limited them. So, he established a gallery for secretaries. And you've always had the Ambassadors' Gallery, but it is used for that purpose so infrequently that the doormen admit special guests [of staff and others]. And [galleries numbered] Five and Six were always used as tour galleries, and in case of summer, Galleries Seven and Eight. But there never was any segregation [in my experience].

The Senate galleries fill up faster than the House galleries. For the simple reason that senators are in the public eye more than the House members. In the day of [Senator Everett] Dirksen, if the word got out that Dirksen was going to make a speech, look out! We're going to fill up the galleries and we'd have to line 'em up down the corridors. We used to have to line them up down the corridor on the second floor and it was a handicap to the public and the members and everyone else. When they extended the [East Front of the] Capitol [in the early 1960s] we used the corridors down there to line them up. We started the rotation of [visitors in] the galleries during the Nixon, Kennedy years in the Senate [1960-61].

page 52

BAKER: There wasn't a rotation system before that?

BALLARD: It wasn't necessary. Nixon, Kennedy, and Johnson--they really attracted the people. There, in the chamber, was the Kennedy and Johnson [presidential] ticket. And then Nixon.

BAKER: So this would have been after the summer of 1960.

BALLARD: Yes. Any person who went in there was going to see a president, regardless of what happened.

BAKER: In that period before 1961, do you recall other senators who were great attractions, they way Dirksen was?

BALLARD: Believe it or not--[Senator] Glen Taylor of Idaho. Glen Taylor was a great orator. And the word got out he was going to make a speech, and he filled it up. He made the famous speech about being jailed in Alabama--he filled up the gallery that day. "I've often heard what a jail in Alabama is like, I can tell you now, I just came from jail in Alabama . . . "

I had a case one time, I had to laugh. We had them lined up. It wasn't anything special. It was just a routine Monday. You see the tourists all come to town on the weekend and Mondays they all come to the Hill. So, look out Monday! You're going to line them up. It was after the wedding of the Johnson girl [Luci, August 6, 1966] in the cathedral [Shrine of the Immaculate

Conception] out here. Of course, there weren't supposed to be any weddings in the cathedral --that's understood--but they did give in for the Johnson girl. About the middle of the afternoon [of that Monday] the Senate got into some political hassle, so they moved to adjourn. Well, I usually went down the corridors to tell them [the tourists] "the Senate has adjourned. The galleries are open now. You may go up if you want to." Well, I made my usual announcement and I walked back up in front of [Room] S-207 and a woman and her family followed me. A woman and two children and a man, but the woman was after me. Well, we got out into the corridor there past 207, under the bust of [Vice President James] Sherman and she got me! And, I'll have to tell you, she unloaded on me.

She told me, "We came into town from Illinois on Friday night. We got a motel room near the cathedral so that we could go over to mass Saturday morning. When we got up and got over there, the Secret Service had it closed. I couldn't even get a souvenir for Father Jenkins! We went down to visit the White House. It was closed!" I'm trying to tell the woman that I don't have anything to do with this--any part of this, that I don't even know what's going on behind me in the Senate chamber. But that wasn't calming the waters. On Sunday, they started to go to Mount Vernon and they got into traffic on the 14th Street Bridge, and I could understand it. "We got to the

gates of Mount Vernon at 5:30 and they were closing it! We came back up to sightsee and we came up to the Capitol to see the Senate in session. We stand in line for thirty minutes," which is wrong, only fifteen, "and you come and tell me that the Senate has adjourned!" I was trying to tell the woman . . . trying to get away from it, but I couldn't do it. There wasn't any of this that was my fault, but I was in uniform, I was the first uniform she saw, and I was going to get it. Boy, what she thought of this town, it was something else!

Well, when the 1968 riots broke out and the town caught on fire, I was on duty--of course twelve hours of duty--I was out in the squad car making the rounds and I saw the flames. And something happened to bring back the memory of that woman in Illinois. And I started laughing. And Dick [companion in the car] said, "I don't see much funny about this." And I said, "Dick, I'm thinking about a woman in Illinois who is sitting in front of her television set watching this town burn down, applauding. (Laughter)

BAKER: I suppose members of the force must have to deal with frustrated tourists all the time.

BALLARD: Of course. You know, the greatest thing you can have up here as a policeman is a sense of humor. You don't, for goodness sake, get upset with the

tourists. They have a question--it's a question to them--try to help them solve it. They're here as visitors and they are entitled to courtesy, I don't care what it is.

page 55

Vandalism. Tourists don't commit vandalism in the Capitol, it's the employees. I've found that to be true since I've been here. They're the ones who throw trash in the corner, not the tourists. The tourists have their mouths open. I used to tell the new men, "If you don't have a sense of humor, develop one. See something funny about it, fella."

BAKER: Or you're not going to last.

BALLARD: Oh, no, they'll wear you down.

BAKER: Thinking about some of the major public events that brought lots of visitors to Washington that you must have been involved in . . .

BALLARD: The first one that sort of surprised me was [General John "Blackjack"] Pershing's funeral in 1948. I'd been here a year--a quiet year, nothing had gone on. You know ten people at a time, and then all at once this state funeral! And they came from everywhere. Especially, we had a lot of work with the old veterans. They came here hardly able to walk. You know, "Blackjack" was a god to them. It was July, 17th and 18th, and you couldn't have had hotter weather. We had to line them up to go in the East Front, and by the time they got into the Capitol Building, they'd collapse. Fortunately, we had a man [on the force] who was a medical student. Of course, we didn't have many men here, but we did have a man inside to

page 56

direct the people around. We put the medical student there and he was busy with first aid. He really had some practical experience when this was over. It was hard work for us. There weren't many of us. We didn't know anything about it. The captain didn't. The captain was a retired Pennsylvania state trooper, but practically all his career his job had been to chauffeur governors, because he was a nice-looking fella, and he didn't know too much. And he admitted he didn't. None of us knew [much]. We got by with it. In a thing like that, nobody knows when you make a mistake anyhow. Because they don't know what you're doing and you don't either. And we got along very well with it.

I lived right here on D Street, and I said, from now on I'll move away from here, because they could get me in a hurry. Just run out the corner of the building and wake me up. I'd been working most of the night when they came to wake me up and say, "Truman has decided to come up to the building." Well, I had to go in. We brought him in the side door--Truman, Eisenhower, General "Moose Jaw" Bradley in the North Door. Of course, we held the public out until Truman visited around, then we took them back out and we did get a little break then.

Sunday night the captain and Gus Cook, the assistant Architect of the Capitol--he was actually the Architect. Mr. [David] Lynn [the Architect] didn't do much--they got a hold of me and told me to meet

page 57

them at the Document Door [of the Capitol] at 7:30. Pershing's sister, his son Warren, and his daughter and Warren's two children and, old Vice President [Charles] Dawes were coming to the building after we closed the building at 9:00 o'clock. They were going up to view the remains and then that would end the program. Well, Gus drank pretty heavily and so did the captain. I smelled whiskey on them when they brought me over to the door, so I wasn't going to be disappointed if they didn't show up. At 9:00 o'clock I was there and the limousines came up. We had a little elevator inside the Law Library Door [to the Capitol] in those days. It just went up one floor. It was the Taft elevator. It was put in there for Supreme Court Chief Justice William Howard Taft because he couldn't walk up the stairs. It 's been taken out now. I took old Vice President Dawes--Truman had come in--and his [Pershing's] sister up on the elevator and sent the family up the stairway. They visited a while. Then I brought them back down and then the limousine [took them away]. Now the captain and Gus never showed up. (Laughter) I knew they wouldn't. After we closed the building, I went downstairs toward the Crypt [on the first floor] and I looked down in their office on the floor below and saw a light on. Well, our office closed at 5:00 o'clock and wasn't open on Sunday anyhow. I went down to see what was wrong and I went back and in a big chair was the captain--he had passed out, and on the sofa Gus had passed out. (Laughter) Well, I rallied some men. Now the captain was a

page 58

tremendous big man. We had a dickens of a time getting him out of the Guard Room to get him to the car to take him home. Gus wasn't very big or heavy. He lived in the Roosevelt Hotel. We took them home.

The next morning, Mr. Cook came in and said, [sotto voce] "Ballard, how'd I get home last night?" (Laughter) I said, "We took you home. He said, "Okay, I just wondered." Gus and I were good friends. He told me one time--he was over eighty years old--"You know, I am the acting member on the Police Board and I'd do anything if I ever thought you were in trouble, but you know, I'm old and am not going to stay here much longer. I'd like for you to have something permanent before I go. They're going to build a new Senate office building and there will be some jobs over there. I'm going to send you over to see Lewey Caraway [Superintendent of the Senate Office Buildings] and you pick out your job, and Lewey's going to help you."

So, I went over and Lewey brought the [list of] jobs out. The best job was air conditioning. Lewey said it paid the most and was the best job. I said, "Lewey, I wouldn't know air conditioning if it walked in this door. I can't put in a light bulb. He said not to worry and he called downstairs and got Kelley. I knew Kelley.

Kelley said, "Oh, yeah, we'd like to have Ballard. He worked over here as a sergeant, I'd like to have him." I said, "I just don't

page 59

have guts like that." "Well, if anything goes wrong, we'll just call the air conditioning man from downtown." (Laughter) I said, "I can't do it Lewey. You tell Mr. Cook that I was over here and that you offered it to me and I turned it down." Lewey says, "Oh, no! You have to tell him. Or he'll believe I've shafted you." I said okay and I told Mr. Cook.

BAKER: Had they started construction of the building at that time?

BALLARD: Yes.

BAKER: So that was in the mid-50s?

BALLARD: Yes.

BAKER: With regard to the Pershing funeral, did you have any help from the Metropolitan force?

BALLARD: No. We had two Metropolitan policemen stationed here. They were here during the war, but they played it pretty sharp. They saw a good thing, so they politicked themselves into staying here as liaison. They made rank--of course they worked the committees--that they wouldn't have made downtown.

BAKER: When you say, "worked the committees," what do you mean?

page 60

BALLARD: Well, they knew who the chairmen of the Appropriations Committees were. They got themselves raised in name. Their actual names were [spelled out] in the Appropriations laws. Carl Schamp was promoted to lieutenant up here, but not downtown.

BAKER: So downtown, held still be a sergeant?

BALLARD: That's right. We had a fellow who ended up as chief of the Capitol Police for little over a year. He died recently at eighty something years old. One day one of our boys had some business downtown. There they had colored photos. They had become popular and they had a board down in police headquarters with captains and above in color. And he came back and said, "I saw pictures down there, but Chief Schamp wasn't on there." I said, "Chief Schamp is a lieutenant down there! And so was Carl and so was Mike. But they drew deputy chief pay up here.

BAKER: And they never went downtown?

BALLARD: No. They never went back downtown.

BAKER: So if there was resentment downtown among their fellow officers . . .

BALLARD: Oh, yes! Certainly, they would have been butchered downtown. Mike even angled himself into an extension on his retirement up here for a year.

page 61

BAKER: What do you mean by that?

BALLARD: You see they have a mandatory retirement age downtown and he got it extended a year up here. No, we didn't have any help . . .

BAKER: So those two men who were assigned from downtown were relatively useless. You couldn't count on them.

BALLARD: Of course they were, except to the members. They made themselves available.

BAKER: Was it possible to exercise discipline over them in any way? They weren't under the control of the chief or the captain?

BALLARD: Oh, no. You had no control over them whatever. Nobody did. They were strictly on their own. Now, like the [1954] Puerto Rican shooting [in the House chamber], Carl was supposed to be up in the gallery. He was over in the gym working out! But what could you do about it? Not a thing. Well, it wasn't our place to do anything about it anyway.

BAKER: During World War II, were there larger details of Metropolitan police . . .

BALLARD: There were fifteen Metropolitan.

BAKER: Were there also military troops here?

page 62

BALLARD: They had military for a while, but it didn't work out. You see, the members come and go as they please and the soldiers would challenge them, so it didn't take them long to get rid of them.

BAKER: I bet! I have heard a story about a gun emplacement up on top of the Old Senate Office Building.

BALLARD: Yeah, but that was straw . . . a dummy.

BAKER: Was that supposed to be a dummy, or was it someone's idea of a joke?

BALLARD: They had a straw man.

BAKER: What was the purpose?

BALLARD: I suppose they thought maybe somebody would think it was "protection." (Laughter)

As I've said time and again, this place is built on a bluff and run on the same plain. And it always will be as long as it's here. And that's one of the bluffs they had.

[End of Interview #2]

page 63

Leonard Ballard

Inspector, United States Capitol Police (1947-1984)

Interview #3

(Thursday, September 1, 1983)
Interviewed by Richard A. Baker

BALLARD: Speaking of the story of Senator Fong and the pineapple light fixture, there's another pertaining to a senator [in connection with the Senate chamber area]. In the Marble Room [located just outside the chamber to the north] itself, when you enter on the east side, there's a chair there. If you'll sit down in the chair and look at the ceiling, you'll see an outline of George Washington in natural marble, in the marble beam. I had some friends in their one day showing it to them. Senator Wayne Morse came in. We were standing near his chair and he asked what we were looking at. When I showed him, he said, "You know, that's funny. I have snoozed in that chair for twenty-four years and I have never seen that." I said, "That's because you always fall asleep too soon."

BAKER: How'd you find out about it?

BALLARD: A janitor told me about it many years ago. They used to go back there and take their naps. I used it as a capper if I had somebody important to take back there. For the rest of the time he was here, Wayne Morse took guests back there to show them.

page 64

BAKER: Last time we spent a lot of time talking about the late 40s and early 50s . . . the Pershing funeral, and so forth. That brings to mind other major public events such as Truman's inaugural in January 1949. I was wondering how that went, particularly with regard to relations with the Secret Service and the Metropolitan Police.

BALLARD: Truman's inauguration was the first one televised. We didn't have the elaborate build up that we have now. We had a flatbed truck on the East Front with, I think, eight cameras on it. That was all. It was a beautiful day, a cold day, bitter cold. A lieutenant and I worked together and somebody had given us tickets and he brought his wife and I brought my wife. They were good seats right on the press section. But I've never been able to get my wife back to another one. She said, "That's the coldest day I've ever spent in my life and that's all for me!" I worked the door from the Rotunda out to the platform for the simple reason that it was all new to everyone. The captain had never been there before. Of course, there hadn't been one for a while.

BAKER: FDR's [1945] inaugural was held at the White House.

BALLARD: That's right. There were actually very few people [who'd had relevant experience]. It was just hit and miss. Everyone was lucky. I knew a lot of faces and the captain knew that. He placed me on the door from the Rotunda leading out because the people

page 65

who go out there are people as a rule who don't want to be asked for a pass. That's very touchy. There was actually no real crowd. You didn't have the pushing and the shoving and the grab for passes and the people who have to be out there the way it has been /in recent times/. It was a nice calm day.

They had the inaugural luncheon in the office of the Secretary of the Senate, Truman's personal friend Leslie Biffle.

BAKER: In his conference room, S-224?

BALLARD: Yes. Well, after it was over the captain came and got me and took me up around to work the luncheon door because I knew faces. At the luncheon you don't check anybody's [passes]. You have to take a little risk there, but you don't check 'em. It got to be a boisterous affair. There's one thing about Truman's inauguration, everybody was jolly. I've forgotten who sang the Star Spangled Banner . . . Phil somebody. He had passed out on the sofa right inside the door. Some man came out and said to me, "Have you had a drink yet?" And I said, "No, no, I can't take one yet." Well, he went back in and he brought back a bottle wrapped up in a brown envelope and he said, "This is for afterwards." I thanked him. Well, I just raised up Phil and stuck it under him. (Laughter) 'Cause, I couldn't hold it in my hand!

BAKER: That's true.

page 66

BALLARD: I knew nobody would find it.

BAKER: He was going to be there for a while.

BALLARD: When the luncheon was over, I had three bottles under Phil! After the luncheon had broken up and they went downstairs to get into the parade, I took the bottles over to the guard room, put them in my locker and went back over to the [Capitol] building. In those days the parade started on the other side of the Hill, around by the House office buildings and came across the front of the Capitol. I went out on the platform and watched most of the parade. It was a quiet inauguration.

BAKER: So then your responsibilities were over at that point.

BALLARD: When the luncheon was over, all those people left the building and went to their vehicles downstairs. And the building was opened to the public. It

was back to its everyday business. There was no security. Of course, for inaugurations nowadays, you have security out into the drives.

BAKER: And storm fences surrounding the entire Capitol grounds.

BALLARD: Yes.

BAKER: There was none of that at that point?
page 67

BALLARD: No, no. I suppose nobody ever thought of it.

BAKER: Was the force augmented with Metropolitan police at all?

BALLARD: No. We had the usual Secret Service, but not a big contingent. You had the Secret Service with the president, which was a small detail. It wasn't anything like it is now. There might have been three or four [agents], but you see the vice president didn't have secret service; the cabinet had no secret service. The president was the only one who had it. You get acquainted first thing with the secret service and they usually play your game. Of course, they're on strange territory. There was no hassle. It was the quietest inauguration we've ever had since I've been here.

BAKER: Then, several years after that inauguration, there was another major public event when Princess Elizabeth [of Great Britain] came to town [in 1951].

BALLARD: Now, I escorted them that time through the building with Fishbait Miller [Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives]. And then they came back in 1957 when they had the luncheon in the old Supreme Court Room now restored as the Old Senate Chamber].

page 68

When they came in 1951, Fishbait was going to meet me in the center of the Rotunda . . . you know that old routine [where a Senate official's jurisdiction ends and a House official takes over], the House side and the Senate side.

BAKER: You were coming from the Senate side?

BALLARD: Yes. We had to wait a little there and I was with the Prince [Phillip] and I've forgotten the name of the woman who was with the Princess, but I didn't want to show him any [of the murals depicting U.S. Revolutionary War victories over Great Britain] of that. Because that wasn't, you know, in his pocket. The "Signing of the Declaration of Independence," the "Surrender of Burgoyne," . . . Cornwallis [at Yorktown]. So I directed his attention to the "Baptism of Pocahontas" because he was a direct descendent of John Rolfe [who married Pocahontas in 1614].

BAKER: (Laughing) "Forget this stuff over here on the right."

BALLARD: We just didn't look that way. I pointed out the painting of the Indian with the six toes. We walked over and I showed him. He was very happy with that . . . he was impressed. He didn't even ask to see anything on the other side. Of course, by that time, Fishbait was there and we moved to the House side. He took over there.

page 69

Another incident with Fishbait . . . when they came back as Prince and Queen in 1957 they had the luncheon and, to go to the House side, Fishbait picked us up. The Queen had two Royal Canadian Mounted Police with her--red jackets and the whole business--and I mean they were as tall as Canadian Mountains. I had to keep looking up. Well, Fishbait's a very southern, gallant . . . So we go into the House chamber and down the aisle. She's to sit in the Speaker's chair.

BAKER: The House wasn't in session? The chamber was empty?

BALLARD: It was not in session. We went down the aisle and of course there are steps [going up to the rostrum] and Fishbait naturally . . . he just gets her by the elbow to assist . . . Well, this Mountie hits him . . . never looked down, "Commoners don't touch the Queen!" Fishbait's arm was moving the next morning when he came in. It was still moving. I used to kid Fishbait about it. He didn't like it.

BAKER: I bet he didn't.

BALLARD: Every once in a while, I'd say, "Commoners don't touch the Queen." At the 1957 luncheon they had the tableware from the Mayflower Hotel. The hotel sent its own security up. They inventoried it and apparently nobody stuck any in their shirt.

page 70

BAKER: But the point being the name "Mayflower."

BALLARD: That's right.

BAKER: On the 1951 occasion, was there any formal ceremony in the Rotunda?

BALLARD: No.

BAKER: I had heard a story about the Queen's podium being set up facing the Revolutionary War murals. But that apparently is not a true story.

BALLARD: No, sir. I was there.

I knew I could entertain the Prince with the "Baptism of Pocahontas" because it was his relative. I knew I was going to take him and I did a little research to find out about it, so that I wouldn't be at a loss if he asked me any questions.

BAKER: A couple of years later was Eisenhower's inaugural, in 1953.

BALLARD: That was a big inauguration . . . a crowd, but without incident. They had more press than ever before. That was when they built special press facilities in front of the inaugural platform. It was maybe Kennedy's inauguration [in 1961] when the "Today Show" moved in. That was the first completely covered inauguration.

page 71

BAKER: That opens up a whole new range of questions on the subject of relations between the police and the press. I imagine that that has been an increasingly more difficult relationship as the number of press members assigned to the Capitol has grown so dramatically. Press people tend to be pretty pushy and assertive and want to overstep boundaries.

BALLARD: The press grew. Originally, you might have had two at a press conference, it wasn't very long before you had twenty-two. Of course, it was more trouble to handle them. The trouble in the Capitol is the narrow corridor. You *have* to keep the corridors open. Not only for the tourists, but for the members. Of course, they're hunting a story. They couldn't care less. You *do* have some trouble with them.

[Robert] Dunphy hadn't been in as Sergeant at Arms too long. He had been with the Rules Committee for many years . . . while he was going to law school. Johnny Lacovara was his deputy. He fell heir under Joe Duke. Lacovara came under Duke. Well, Paul Duke [no relation] won't stop anywhere for a story. We had a meeting of the Foreign Relations Committee. They were in session and the press was lolling around [outside the Committee's suite on the first floor of the Capitol] and Paul was standing up and he saw a senator coming out of the Senate dining room [nearby]. He went out in the corridor and approached him to bring him around and I said, "Paul, you can't

page 72

interview him here." And he says, "Why can't I, he's a senator." I said, "Paul, he's not a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee." And he says, "Well, he's a senator." And I said, "That's beside the point." So Paul said, "Well, I'm going upstairs and see the Sergeant at Arms." I said, "Well, all right." He came back down with Johnny Lacovara. And Johnny said, "Well, Leonard, I think you kind of overstepped yourself this time."

I said, "Johnny, go upstairs. Your boss just came from a meeting of the Rules Committee and he should be pretty familiar. The rules say that you can't make a studio out of the halls of Congress. You can only interview those who are a

member of that particular committee." So Johnny goes out and he comes back in a minute and he says, "Paul, he's right. You can't do it." Johnny and I always got along well. Johnny favored the press.

I always got along well with the press. When I got transferred over here, the press wrote several good stories that I was internationally known in the Capitol. I didn't fight 'em. I knew they had a job to do. But I always let them know that *I* had a job to do, too. So, let's meet on an even ground and don't hassle each other.

I've forgotten that fella that was on . . . little black book. He's dead, he died of cancer. He was of Channel 4 at 11:00 o'clock. He and I were sitting in front of Foreign Relations, he was strictly a gentleman, and one of the fellows was unpacking his gear and he had

page 73

it blocking the stairway as you go down to the basement. I hollered at him, "Would you please move that box out of the way in case someone's coming up the stairs or trying to go down." He said, "I didn't notice it, I'm sorry." So he moved it. Well, this fellow who was sitting beside me, he said, "Well, I'll tell you, I think I better get away from here. The captain just said, 'Would you *please* . . .'" And he said, "That's not right." (Laughing) Because I usually yelled at them.

BAKER: But that's an ongoing war.

BALLARD: Yes, it is, but it shouldn't be. They know the rules better than our men. See, our men, a lot of them are new. They [the press] know the rules, but they are going to push 'em. Anything to get a story. Sam Donaldson [of ABC] . . . I'll give Sam credit. Now Sam will come up with a story, but he'll probably break your leg getting it, so just watch your leg! And he'll ask embarrassing questions. Of course, that's no concern of yours [the police] what he asks, but he's a good newsman.

Now I had a case there one day . . . I was out in front of the Capitol early in the morning . . . that's when they were extending the [East] front [of the Capitol, late 1950s to early 1960s]. George Tames, a photographer for the *New York Times* who's been with them since old man Adolph Ochs took it over I think in the 1800s. (Laughter) Anyhow, George came up to take an early picture, you know

page 74

the sun [rising] and that bit. He pulled up in a space that belonged to a woman who came in fairly early and always wanted her space open, which she's entitled to. I said, "George, don't park in here. Back over there, that fellow's on vacation. You can stay as long as you want to. [He said,] 'I'm not going to be but a minute.'" I said, "George, get over there." He gets in his car and he takes off. Well, I didn't pay any attention to it. About noon I got a call from the Deputy Sergeant at Arms. The superintendent of the press photographers gallery wanted me to go out and see where I had asked George to park, and so forth. So I went along.

The next morning, I was standing at the Senate door and a couple of photographers came in and they said, "Joe Duke's going to fire you today." And I

said, "Well, he's the only fella I know of who can." And another one came in [who said], "I talked to Joe Duke last night, I begged him last night not to fire you, but he said he's going to today." And I said, "Well, I've heard that." I happened to be outside the building talking to the man on traffic there and Mr. Duke drove up. He parked his car against the curb, walked out on the outside, and called me over. He said, "What's George Tames' space up here?" And I said, "George doesn't have a space up here. George has space available." "What?" I said, "Just like all the photographers. They have space available. We put them in anywhere." He said, "What?" And I said, "No." You see, again, it had been just about two weeks before this that the local *Daily News*. had served a subpoena

page 75

on Mr. Duke forcing them to open [information on] the Senate payroll to the public. Now, he'd been ducking that subpoena for four months, I knew that, cause we were watching for them. And I knew that he was teed at the press. So he said to me, "Do you have any trouble with my staff?" And I said, "No, you don't have enough staff to create any trouble." Well, he didn't then. He had three people. He said, "Who do you have the trouble with." I said [to myself], "Well, here's where I unload, baby!" I said, "It's the press. They're the ones that give you the problem. I wish there was some way we could keep 'em off the Hill. He said, "Aren't you right! Aren't you right!" I says, "Now I tried to get George to take a place, but he took off." He said, "Isn't that right! You try to do 'em a favor . . . and they want to kick you in the rear." I said, "Well, I don't know what he wanted to do . . . " He said, "What kind of car does George Tames have?" I said, "He has a little green Nash Ambassador." So he called the officer on the front who he knew very well and he said, "Ralph, I don't want to find George Tames' car on the Senate side of the Capitol Building [parking lot]. I don't want to look out and see it." Ralph says, "All right." A little later on (Laughing), George came up. [He said,] "Where ya going to put me this morning, Ralph?" You know, space available. Ralph says, "On the House side, George. Joe Duke told me not to park you on the Senate side of the Capitol." "Well [responded

pagr 76

George], what am I gonna do?" Ralph says, "Trade cars, George!" (Laughter) "Cause he knows what this one looks like!" So he took off. Later in the day, they called me up in the press gallery . . . photographers gallery. "Would you go in and see Joe Duke and get him to lay off George Tames. He's [Duke] threatened to pull his pass, you know if he pulls it . . . " I said, "Let me tell you something, Bill [Forsythe, the gallery superintendent] if you think I'm going to make a move, you're crazy. I hope he f ires you and George Tames and anyone else involved. You had me down the road this morning . . . you told me I was fired this morning when you came in. But after Mr. Duke came out there and got the truth . . . I wouldn't lift a finger for you." And I didn't. And George walked on light feet around there for a long time. Because Joe Duke was that type. Now, he'd do anything in the world for you, but don't *lie* to him, or don't try to outfox him.

BAKER: Held never forget it.

BALLARD: No, he wouldn't. He'd kill you eventually. And that's the reason I got along so well with Duke. I never told him a lie regardless of who it hurt. He was very fine to me, he promoted me right to the top.

page 77

Paul Duke . . . now I was glad to see him go to PBS. And get off the Hill. Because he was a pain. I was standing up on the platform outside the Senate wing one day and I saw Paul down there and he had Congressman [James] Scheuer of New York. They had their car there unloading their TV gear and I hollered down to Paul, "Paul, don't set up your gear. You can't interview him here!" And Paul says, "Why can't I?" I says, "Because he's a congressman. Take him across on the other [House] side and help yourself." The congressman spoke up and said, "Why can't I be interviewed here?" I said, "Sorry, it's a rule congressman."

BAKER: There's an actual rule?

BALLARD: There is. Now, you can get permission. He could have called upstairs to get permission, but he couldn't just stop. Well, he said, "I want a letter on my desk by 5:00 o'clock telling me why I can't be interviewed on the Senate steps." I said, "Well, congressman, you can't be interviewed, but you won't get a letter on your desk either at 5:00 o'clock." The cameraman was hollering up at me, "Not me, Ballard, not me." (Laughing) He was wrapping up his gear. (Laughing) I saw Lodi [Mr. Lodovitch] the next day and I said, "I wasn't blaming you Lodi, it was damn Paul" . . . I know Paul.

BAKER: Does that rule work the other way around? Senators cannot be interviewed over on the House side?

page 78

BALLARD: That's right. Now they can go into the Speaker and get permission. There's no problem, it's just a question of permission. I don't know why the rule is, but that's it. The press know it, but they won't pay any attention. Most of them work on base pay and so much on each story they get. That was true of Roger Mudd. During the 1964 Civil Rights Act debate, Roger was working for WTOP [in Washington]. CBS contacted him and had him broadcast from the Senate steps every hour on the hour for five minutes. And, of course, CBS paid him. In April when that was over, *Time* magazine carried a story on Roger, "From Mudd to Gold." He went from \$100 a week to \$2,000 a week because he got \$50 for the first time, \$75 for the next time, \$100 the next time . . . daily! And that's the reason they buck you to get a story. If they can get on twice a day, they've got it made. Of course, not all of the newsmen are under a contract like that. And it may be just when they're starting.

I used to sit up there [in the radio-TV gallery suite] because, at night I had to stay, and it was a good place to loaf. They had a TV up there, and there was nobody else up there and I'd sit and visit with Roger. He was having trouble meeting his house payments, of course he's not anymore. (Laughter)

BAKER: Restrictions on photography around the Capitol . . . I know you have to have a "tripod pass" . . . What's the background of all that?

page 79

BALLARD: It used to be that pictures were taken on tripods. Very few hand cameras in the early days, and that's when these rules were made. It is just that they didn't have the space to set up a tripod. All the corridors are narrow. Even out on the front of the building, you have to have special permission to set up there.

BAKER: And that was only because of the space problem inside the building.

BALLARD: That's right.

BAKER: So there was an effort at consistency even though it didn't make any sense on the outside?

BALLARD: No tripods without special permission. There's actually no rule against taking pictures, but there's a vague rule about flashbulbs inside the building. Flashes tend to distract people. And then sometimes people take pictures of senators. And senators [sometimes] don't want them. They get in trouble sometimes. So you say "No pictures" if you see somebody with a camera. Let's say there's this family going down the corridor. They're just taking a picture. They don't know who they're taking a picture of. Well, maybe they've been over to see the senator, and have been told "the senator is out of town." Well, they go home and have the

page 80

picture developed and somebody says, "By gosh, you were lucky, you got a picture of Senator So and So." (Laughter) He's [the elusive senator] ruined [in his constituents' eyes].

BAKER: Right. He wasn't out of town at all.

BALLARD: Those things are to protect the members, which is right. Bill Wannall, you remember Bill [Sergeant at Arms, 1972-75], a dickens of a nice fella. One day the Senate galleries were filled up, I've forgotten what the specific issue was . . . we had 'em lined up. I had a new fella on . . . sometimes a new fella on the [interior Senate] steps checking [gallery] passes is better than an old one . . . an old one knows a lot of people . . . a new one doesn't know anybody. It was pretty pushy and I was helping him, standing on the steps. Well Senator [Jack] Miller of Iowa came out of the Senate Reception Room with a family . . . a man, a woman, and a girl about twelve. I thought he was taking them up to the Family Gallery, which they do. So I stepped aside to let them go by. But he stopped. And the girl down at the foot of the stairs started taking pictures.

Well, about that time Bill Wannall came around by what was then Majority Leader Mike] Mansfield's office--it's Robert Byrd's now--and he said, "No pictures in the corridors, senator!" Well, the

page 81

senator said, "What?" and flushed. Miller of Iowa would, you know. And he [Wannall] said, "No pictures in the corridor." So Miller said, "Let's go out on the porch. Maybe they won't bother us out there. " [After they left, Bill came over and said,] "Well, didn't you see that!" And I said, "No, somebody hollered down there and I looked down to see . . . " you know what I mean? Well, about a half an hour later, a page came down and said Mr. Wannall wants to see me in the Reception Room. I went in. He said, "Bal, I can see now why you keep those damn glasses so dirty." (Laughter) I said, "Bill, I was surprised. As long as you've been on this Hill," you know he was on the Hill for years [before becoming Sergeant at Arms in 1972] down at the printing shop, "that you would say anything to a senator about a family taking a picture. You know damned well that I saw it. I had to step over to keep out of the picture" and I did. I knew they didn't want me! And he says, "Boy, I just came from upstairs [in the Office of then-Sergeant at Arms Robert Dunphy]. He kept me up there for thirty minutes. [Senator] Miller is raising sand." I said, "Well, I don't doubt it a bit." He said, "Well, if I'm ever around you again, I'm going to wait until you move.

BAKER: At that time Wannall was Dunphy's deputy?

BALLARD: He was Deputy Sergeant at Arms! Had been deputy for about three or four months. I told him, "You just don't say anything to 'em, Bill, regardless of what they [senators] are doing." Wannall

page 82

and I were friends for years. I used to park him in the Northeast Drive [adjacent to the Capitol]. He didn't have a permit because [in those earlier years] he wasn't a Senate employee. He was a Government Printing Office employee [on detail to the Senate], but I worked the Drive and always had a space. I knew he had to work, so I'd always stick him in somewhere.

No, it's better if you just play along with the press. It'll save you a lot of irritation. Leroy Anderson, a very well known NBC photographer . . . he did a lot of specials for NBC. He did the special on the Capitol several years ago. There was not a soul in the entire film, but Raymond Massey did the comment. And that 's where they made their mistake. Raymond Massey sounded like he was reading it. They should have gotten Everett Dirksen to do it, because he felt the Capitol. It lived to him. But, Leroy was a good photographer. And I was standing there in front of Foreign Relations [committee room in the Capitol] one day and the Senate was going to go out [adjourn] in a couple days, and he said, "What are you going to do?" I said, "Well, we're going to Colorado. We're going to Manitou Springs, Pike's Peak, and that area." He said, "If you go to Manitou . . . Colorado Springs, be sure that you go to the Garden of the Gods." So we were out there visiting my

wife's relatives who had a cottage up at Ute Pass. I said, "I've got to go to the Garden of

page 83

the Gods, because Leroy recommended it . . ." So, we drove through it. It didn't impress me as much, maybe as it did Leroy, but it was beautiful scenery. Natural formations.

Sunday morning, we were in the cottages. And in the Denver Post there was a story about a man and his wife on Saturday night had been in the Garden of the Gods, heard a movement in the bush . . . she did, and he thought it was a yoker or a mugger or something, so he took a tire tool out of the car and goes around into the bush . . . and it was a bear! And the bear tore the hell out of him. He had to be hospitalized . . . Well, I clipped that out and mailed it back to Leroy (Laughter) and I wrote on top of it, "Leroy, you tried to set me up with that damn bear!" (Laughter) He put it on the bulletin board and it was there for months. Leroy never forgot it, because we always fought. (Laughter)

BAKER: We talked a little of the 1953 Eisenhower inaugural and, of course, that also marked the return of the Republicans to control of the Senate. There must have been a lot of changes . . . changes in staff, patronage throughout the Senate. What was the mood?

BALLARD: Well, actually it changed the Senate staff, the doormen changed. They all came in new. The employees were all Republicans [in the support offices], but it didn't bother us much. We weren't affected. It didn't bother us much.

page 84

BAKER: Shortly afterwards, on March 1, 1954, there was the shooting by the four Puerto Rican terrorists from the gallery of the House chamber. Did you have any involvement in that?

BALLARD: Oh, yeah. I was on duty.

BAKER: Where were you?

BALLARD: In the Capitol Building. The minute that the word got out . . of course, we all went to the House side. We closed off the building. The rumor we got was that there were 250 [of them] at Union Station on their way up! Well, we didn't know how many had already got up and got in the building. So we closed off the Building and we searched the Capitol from dome to bottom. Of course, we didn't find another one. There was just the four that we had [in custody], the three men and the woman. They walked out.

In those days we only had one man in either gallery. Buck was on duty. Buck got a couple of them. Now, they walked out and threw their weapons down and said,

"Shoot us!" Well, nobody shot 'em, naturally. There was excitement on that side of the building, I can tell you that! The ambulances came . . .

BAKER: There were about 140 members of the House on the floor at the time.
page 85

BALLARD: Well, there were 119 standing up. They were voting on the "Mexican wetback" bill. And the meant a lot to the southwest and it meant a lot to the unions, because they didn't want it. They were having a vote and there were 119 standing up when they fired down in there. They called the ambulances. We'd put the terrorists in an ambulance and threw a towel over their faces. The photographers were trying to get in there to take pictures of them. We threw one photographer out; broke up his camera. We got in a little trouble over that, but he had no business in there. The captain kinda put us in the middle there. He wouldn't defend us on that. It was an Associated Press photographer. We got in a little correspondence over that. But anyhow, we got it cleared out.

BAKER: The photographer was outside as you were trying to put them in the ambulance?

BALLARD: He got up in the ambulance to take the picture and that's when a squad car driver, a big boy, he pulled up beside the photographer and got him and tossed him . . camera, and photographer, and all. Broke his camera, there's no doubt about that. The one he threw out was Al Muto . . .

BAKER: One of the Muto brothers [later employed as official photographers for the Senate Democrats] . . .

page 86

BALLARD: He got cut off and his brother got him put on [the payroll] over there.

BAKER: He got cut off from where?

BALLARD: Associated Press . . . later on . . . reduction in force. He did get a break. He had his film and he had some film he'd taken. They picked him up and flew him to New York and had those pictures developed and he was on TV that night with his pictures, which made a name for himself. And they flew Douglas Edwards down from New York and he made his TV newscast right from the seat next to where the Puerto Ricans sat . . . broadcast the news that night. That's the first time [anything like] that's ever happened. And the last time!

BAKER: Right. How on earth did they ever allow him to do that?

BALLARD: He got permission from somebody, the Speaker, I suppose. Had to be f rom the Speaker. The Speaker can tell you to do anything if he wants to.

They were, of course, arrested. Now, of course, homicide came up. Naturally, when there's a shooting.

BAKER: From the Metropolitan police?

page 87

BALLARD: That's right. They were the first on the scene. They arrested 'em. They were tried and convicted. Now the woman was sentenced to the woman's federal reformatory in my home town.

BAKER: Alderson.

BALLARD: Yes. We used to go back there. We'd usually go there for a meal. One of the staff would invite us down there for a dinner. Lolita Lebron [one of the terrorists] was a waitress in the staff dining room. Of course, [my friends] would say, "There's your girl." She never did find out who I was . . . that I was on the Capitol Police.

BAKER: She was released just a short while ago?

BALLARD: Not too long ago. Went back to Puerto Rico, waving their flags.

BAKER: What happened within the force as a result of that shooting?

BALLARD: Well, now actually, nothing. (Laughter) The result was that we got what we call the "crash phones." We had no communications whatsoever. So we got a small switchboard and the crash phones to connect with the office into the different posts. In other words, on the posts there was, of course, a telephone, but half the time it was busy. So we put in the red phones and if you wanted to

page 88

reach that House door in a hurry, you "crashed" it through our own switchboard. Now, that's the only thing that ever came out of it. We didn't get an increase in men. We nearly lost our jobs. They introduced legislation to do away with the Capitol Police Force. . . bring in the military, or bring in Marines. It passed the House, but it didn't pass the Senate. Of course, the Senate never did smell the gunpowder. But the House smelled the gunpowder for a long time. They passed it. But, we kept it out of the Senate.

BAKER: How did you do that?

BALLARD: Well, a little bit of politics. Now the captain was a fella . . . now he hit the bottle often, but he thought he'd set himself up to be captain under the new legislation. And that captain was to draw \$20,000 a year! He was only getting \$5,000. I had been in his office at one time, so they decided that I was the fella to go back and see him. I asked him if in this legislation, if he would put in one section to automatically blanket in any person on the [police] roll on the day

of [the bill's] enactment. We just asked him to do that. He said, "No. I don't need you." I said, "Well, captain, you're in for a fight." He said, "I've never run from one." I said, "All right, then, that's your choice." He lost the fight. He lost the battle, he lost the war, he lost his job! And we survived.

page 89

Now, we couldn't do much politicking on the House side. There were too many [members]. And you can't get to 'em. Now, when it got to the Senate, that was right in our corner. We dealt with the women [Senate wives] all the time. They came in every Tuesday to roll Red Cross bandages in Room 154. We made it a point to see that they got every comfort . . .

BAKER: (Laughing) They must have wondered what was happening.

BALLARD: In other words, if they wanted to park in the courtyard [of the Senate Office Building] I had a fella there with an umbrella . . . that ran out with the umbrella and brought them back. The chairman of the Senate Rules Committee subcommittee handling this particular legislation, his wife was not well . . . Frank Barrett of Wyoming . . . Now, of course, I gave Mrs. Barrett special attention and every time they had a meeting [the Rules subcommittee], she would tell me every word of what went on about that police meeting. We got the money [appropriation] killed by helping an old senator's son out of trouble. One day Mrs. Barrett asked me when I was going on vacation. I said, "Well, I can't go until this bill is done away with." One Tuesday, after the Red Cross meeting, she came down to the Guard Room and motioned me out, and said, "Go ahead and put in your application for leave. The bill is in his hip pocket and won't be out this session." Well, I thanked her. Senator Olin Johnston's wife came up with Jane Tippitt, Lawrence Tippitt's wife, to the

page 90

[Army-] McCarthy hearings. And I took them in. It was crowded and naturally there were lines, but I took them in and put them behind the committee . . .

BAKER: Over in the Caucus Room?

BALLARD: Yeah. And I said, "You can watch yourself tonight on TV." And they thought that was great. Mrs. Johnston couldn't get over it. And I said, "I'm doing it now, but come January the 1st, there will be "professionals" booting you around. She said, "What?" I said, "Well, they are going to do away with us." The next couple of days, I was out in front of 318 [the Caucus Room] and Olin came by and stopped me and said, "What's this legislation my wife was telling me about?" I said, "Well, I just happen to have a copy of it," and I did, I pulled it out of my shirt and he went on down, and he saw me a few days later and he said, "Don't worry about that! You know, if I'd voted for that, I'd be afraid to drink coffee at home. That's the last thing I hear every morning. 'Don't you let anything happen to those nice boys up there!'" (Laughter) That afternoon, after Mrs.

Barrett [assured me that no action would be taken] the captain came over the see me.

BAKER: The captain was in charge of the entire force?

page 91

BALLARD: Yes. We only had one captain. And he said, "I came over. . . . the last chance to get on the bandwagon." And I said, "Well, captain, I'm going to give you a short answer now. I don't want you to take it this way, but, I'm driving the bandwagon. I know where the bill is. You don ' t. If you knew where it was, you wouldn't be over here talking to me. He said, "Well, if it was passed, you'd make lieutenant." I was a sergeant then. I said, "My name is not in that bill anywhere." He had a copy of the bill. I said, "You might as well toss it, because it's through. It's over, I can tell you that." And, sure enough, that's the last we've ever heard of it. But we killed it with the women, not the men. You know, the average senator, if you stop him, he'll say, "See John or Mary or whomever." So we went to where we knew the power was--their wives. And we could work on them because every Tuesday we had 'em.

BAKER: How did the captain fare?

BALLARD: A change of administration. The Democrats came back [in control of the Senate] in 1955, and took him out.

[End of Interview #3]

page 92

Leonard Ballard

Inspector, United States Capitol Police (1947-1984)

Interview #4

(Tuesday, September 20, 1983)
Interviewed by Richard A. Baker

BALLARD: Joe Duke made up his mind that he did not want another Senate [patronage] appointment down in that captain's office. Another Cavness down there whom he couldn't buck (see page 29). So, he looked downtown [in the Metropolitan Police Department] and he brought up Bob Pearce. That was the first official we had away from the Capitol Police. He gave him the rank of deputy chief--he had that downtown--but he let him bring it up with him. And he let the chief bring his own captain, a retired Metropolitan [officer] who'd been captain downtown. They spent all of their time on the Senate side. Pearce was the deputy chief--the head man--and [Jeremiah] Flaherty was the captain. They never went to the House side. The members didn't even know who they were. Then when the appropriations came up, they questioned them [on their competence and ability to bring discipline to the force] and they withheld their pay for a couple of months, until somebody got it straightened out.

Later, Pearce left in ill health and they appointed a man named Sullivan. Now Sullivan was smart. He was from Massachusetts and the morning didn't pass that he didn't pay his respects to Tip O'Neill. Now, of course, Tip wasn't the [party] leader, but Tip was in the leadership. And Sullivan had coffee with Tip and kept his skirts

page 93

completely clean. At the same time, he was over with the Senate Sergeant at Arms whenever he wanted something. He ran a good ship. No problems. A man from Metropolitan has a problem up here anyhow. After he has spent ten years in Metropolitan, this place is a completely strange operation to him. We had a fella up here, I think Sullivan brought him up and made him captain. Retired Metropolitan. He was a good man, but he didn't learn the Hill. For instance, if you are loading senators to go to a funeral or out of town, there's a trick to it and you have to do it in a way that they don't know it. I was pretty good at that for the simple reason that I studied the members. I knew about them. Well, in other words, in those days, I wouldn't put (deleted) and (deleted) in the same staff car. Cause (deleted) would probably be drunk and rolling over (deleted). There was one particular southern senator and his wife . . . I wouldn't put them in a staff car with a colored driver. But I would stand out there as they would come around and I'd say, "You're supposed to go in this car, senator," and I'd lead 'em right over and put them in the car. Joe Duke thought I was excellent at it, because he always got compliments.

One day they were burying a mid-western senator at Arlington and Chief Sullivan came down and said, "Mr. Duke wants you to go with Deputy Sergeant at Arms Bill Cheatham and me over to Arlington

page 94

Cemetery for that burial today." And I said, "Chief, I'll go wherever I'm sent, but you'd better leave me here today to load those senators, because there's twenty-seven staff cars coming. There's nothing we can do over at Arlington. Once that hearse arrives there, that's all for us. The military takes over immediately." He checked with Joe Duke and came back and said, "You're to go." We went. We came back after the funeral. Sure enough, we sat in a parking lot over there and watched the danged thing.

The next morning, Sullivan had to go to Duke's office. He came back down and said, "I've got to transfer (deleted) to the House side and keep him on the House side." I said, "I'm not surprised. He screwed up yesterday loading those senators?" He said, "Yup, Joe Duke doesn't want to see him again." And they did, they transferred him to the House and he never came back. It wasn't his fault, but they wouldn't listen to my little bit of experience. You weren't going to put Senator (deleted) and some southern conservative in the same car. They had nothing in common.

Mrs. (wife of a southern senator) . . . I've stood outside that Senate wing [of the Capitol] and frozen my hind end off trying to find a Diamond Cab for her. In those days, Diamond was the only cab company with white drivers. There wasn't any use in me taking any

page 95

other cab under the arch for her. She was a pistol. "You know, I don't want a black driver!" And I'd say, I know Miz (deleted), I know what you mean." When you are in the Capitol Building and dealing with members, and you know them, you won't have any problem. Joe Duke kept me there himself for thirteen years. He promoted me from sergeant to lieutenant to captain, all the way up, for the simple reason that I did what he wanted done and didn't create any problem for him.

In the mid-1950s more and more Senate employees were moving to the suburbs and the Senate had to start a parking system. Joe Duke called me and he said, "I want you to set this up. You know everybody on this Hill, you know where they work, and you know what they're entitled to. I won't interfere with you." I said, "Well, if you have a case where you think I'm not doing the right thing, you let me know." Joe Duke never said one word to me the whole time I had the parking responsibility.

BAKER: When did you begin?

BALLARD: It must have been in about '55 or '56. When they tore down the old buildings on the site of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

page 96

BAKER: Schott's Court?

BALLARD: Yes. You could tell that people were beginning to move to the suburbs. Virginia tags, Maryland tags. It used to be that they all came on streetcars.

I sent each office a form explaining the system. Then I sent blank forms for them to fill out in the order of priority and the senator [for each office] had to sign it. Well, that kept me in the clear. No staff member could come down and say a word to me. I could say, "Go back up and talk to your senator, he's the man who signed it." I had one [problem] case. That was with the office of Senator [Herbert] Lehman of New York. His administrative assistant was a fella named Sid Edleston, who later went to New York and got into politics up there. Anyway, Sid's name wasn't on the list [for the second year]. Lehman didn't drive. He had a chauffeur-driven car. And I thought that Sid was going to take his place in the legislative garage. But on the list, it said "Assign Space 85"-that's right across from the door of the Senate Office Building--"to Vera Beach." Well, I knew she was in the office, so I did. Well, about two weeks after the session started, Sid came in the office. He said, "Why'd you deal me out, Ballard?" And I said, "I didn't deal ya out Sid." He was a dickens of a nice fellow. "You dealt yourself out." I looked on the list and said, "Here it is, 'Assign Space 85' . . . that's your old space . . . 'to Vera Beach'." He

page 97

said, "My God, I've learned one real thing today." I said, "Do you want me to move her?" And he said, "No, I'll move her, but I've got to be more careful about what goes out of the office over the senator's signature." So the next morning, I told Vera she couldn't park there anymore, and I assigned her to the lot. She got upset. And I said, "Sid's the fella who told me to do it."

BAKER: You mentioned "the lot." Which lot was that?

BALLARD: We had the space by old Schott's Court. That was the first lot. That took care of about 300 automobiles. And then, this was a park /pointing/ so that while they were building the new Senate office building, they were going to move those cars off [the old Schott's Court area] and surface that lot with the airplane matting down so that when the building is completed they can take the mat off . . you know the old story and restore the park.

BAKER: Sure, sure.

BALLARD: Well, everybody knew that wasn't going to happen. So we used that lot down there. That was the first lot. We assigned that to senators. A lot of them didn't use it, but you assigned them. Actually, it wasn't a hard job. I put the

permits on myself. Not let them put them on, because they would put them in the glove compartment [and pass them around to more than a single car]. And I wrote to the various [state] motor vehicle divisions to find out the

page 98

best place to apply the permit, and they suggested that I put it right behind the rear view mirror. And that's where I put them. That was convenient for the men working the drives [surrounding the Capitol]. They could stand in the drive and when a car entered, they could see. If a car didn't have the permit, they could whistle it on through.

But, now they've turned it into a multi-million dollar operation. They've made work for themselves. It used to be just a simple placing of the permit and going on about your business. If you had one, okay, and if you didn't have one, okay. Now, the men in the drive, if they had a couple of spaces, they'd park somebody in there. Nobody cared. You'd get a few Christmas presents. That's the name of the game.

BAKER: What problems for the police force did the opening of the new [Dirksen] building create in 1958?

BALLARD: No particular problem. Chief Sullivan and I came over to see the building and we found that they had made no provisions for telephones at any of the doors. (Laughter) There were provisions for desks there, but no telephones. So that cost \$200 per door to drill for the telephone jacks. But the rest of the building . . . You see they don't ask you anything when they build. When there's a stone wall in there, there's not much you can do about it.

page 99

In the Rayburn [House Office] Building, when they built it, they were supposed to make provisions for police in that building. In fact, I went before the House committee and got fifty [new] members for the Rayburn Building. That wasn't enough, but it was all that it was a good idea to ask for. Fifty privates, a lieutenant, and a sergeant. I was told not to ask for any more than that and we got them. They [those in charge of designing the building] were to build a guard room in the Rayburn Building. Plans were drawn up in Philadelphia or somewhere. One day the girl from the Architect's Office brought the plans around to the office for the chief to look at for a new place for the police. Well, [Chief] Sullivan, who was not a comedian in any way, shape, or form--he was a former commander in the Navy--and he ran the ship apparently just like he did out in the ocean. At the desk when you came in, you came to his desk and you stood there, and if he wanted you to sit down, he'd tell you to sit down, but don't sit down until he told you to.

He called me in, and he was down in the supply room with the plans and he was laughing . . . and I knew something was wrong. He said, "You won't believe this; the provisions for the men!" I looked at them. There was a room, as you go up the

steps from Independence Avenue and turn left. There was a room. You entered and there was a sofa, two lamps, and a chair! You go through a door, and back here is the locker room. It had fifteen lockers and a bench for the men to sit on. Out in the entrance room there wasn't a place for a

page 100

telephone, a desk, roll call--nothing. Just fifteen lockers for fifteen men. Well, we called the girl from the Architect's Office back to come pick up the plans and we told her, "You might as well assign this to somebody else, because there's no way we can use this. There's no place for telephones, or file cabinets, and we will have at least fifty to seventy-five men in this building." So they gave it to the House photographers. It was just fine for them, and they have it today.

BAKER: And what did they do for the police?

BALLARD: Kept us in the Longworth Building, where we are.

BAKER: (Laughing) That solved that problem!

BALLARD: When they draw plans, they never consult the police for the simple reason that nobody knows we are here. This is the most silent majority you've ever seen.

BAKER: You are always the last to know.

BALLARD: That's right. Then they tell us and you go along with the program. You can't fight it.

BAKER: Well, in 1958, they added twenty new members to the Senate detail. Did that create any particular problems?

page 101

BALLARD: No. Of course, later [in 1968] they did away with patronage, except on the House side. They kept twenty-two spots.

BAKER: And they still have them?

BALLARD: Still have them. But a lot of them are filled with appointees from the committee. They are professionals. It is just that you can't take everything from a congressman. You may not be giving him anything, but he thinks he's got something, and as long as he thinks that, it's all right. He's not going to create any trouble.

The Senate didn't care. You see, police patronage meant so little to the Senate . . .

BAKER: Why?

BALLARD: Well, maybe they got one student, but the student didn't help them much [politically] back in the state. Where they wanted to use their money. You had no trouble borrowing [police] patronage from a senator. He didn't want it. It used to be these fellas [looking for jobs] from the east coast, the fellas that were here, all they had to do was to hunt a senator from west of the Mississippi River. And they had an appointment [to a position]. A lot of times senators have had bad experiences. They have brought policemen here who have fouled up. The senator had to see that they

page 102

got home. Their families had to get home. When I came here, they had had some bad experiences. Not many of them [senators] wanted it. They wanted committee jobs.

BAKER: Where they could have people who would be . . .

BALLARD: They could send a professional back in the home state . . . There was only one man who held onto his patronage, that was the old fella from New Mexico, Dennis Chavez. Chavez appointed nobody but students. And their grades had to go to Chavez. And if they began to drop on their grades, they got a call from Denney. They had to go and straighten them out. Or they went back to New Mexico. He kept a lot of professional men in that spot. He told me one time he didn't have to go back to electioneer. He said, "I haven't been back in years. I have educated enough professional men back there that they keep me in office." That was a good idea.

BAKER: They were up here as students and then they graduated and went back.

BALLARD: Law students, dental students . . . Of course, naturally, they were beholden to the old man and they worked [hard] for him. But overall, senators never cared about police patronage.

BAKER: I suppose the same would be true for elevator operator patronage and postal employees and things of that nature.

page 103

BALLARD: Yeah. It's swapped around on the Senate side. You'd see an elevator operator and maybe he was from Mississippi, but he was under somebody from Missouri. But the House always held on to it a little tighter.
[End of Interview #4]

page 104

Leonard Ballard

Inspector, United States Capitol Police (1947-1984)

Interview #5

(Monday, October 3, 1983)
Interviewed by Richard A. Baker

BAKER: Let's go back to the Puerto Rican shooting in the House chamber in 1954. You had mentioned earlier this poor fellow, "Buck," who became an instant celebrity thanks to *Life* magazine.

BALLARD: Buck was a big man . . . a terrific grip, strong for his age. He was leading these two culprits out. When they came out of the House gallery, they threw their weapons on the floor and screamed, "Shoot us, shoot us." Of course, nobody was going to shoot them, naturally. But Buck happened to be the only officer in the [corridor adjacent to the] gallery. In those days we only had one, just for tourist information. But he grabbed one couple by the collar and was leading them down the corridor when the press galleries erupted, the photographers, the writers, everyone. They snapped Buck leading these two out. In about a month it appeared in *Life* magazine. Well, it wasn't very long before a young chap showed up huntin' Buck. He identified himself as his son. Twenty-year-old son from Texas. Buck had left Texas several years before that. His family didn't know where he was. I think maybe he had eight children. Maybe that's the reason he left Texas! He spent about a week with Buck and came back six, seven months later to visit Buck.

page 105

We always thought maybe Buck would get him on the police force. (Laughter) But he never did. Buck weathered it very well. Paid no attention to it.

BAKER: Well, you mentioned that the police department didn't spend a whole lot of time checking into the backgrounds of the men.

BALLARD: There was no check. We had a captain who came here in the 80th Congress, a former Pennsylvania state trooper who decided to run a fingerprint check on the appointees. There was no such thing as an applicant. You were just appointed. Well, that didn't work out too well. If you were a veteran, the captain wanted a copy of your discharge. He ran into trouble there, because you have no veteran's preference up here, so why do that?

BAKER: Did he try it for a while?

BALLARD: Yeah, he tried it, but he couldn't get much cooperation from the men. Nowadays, you can run anywhere and [conveniently] get a copy [of discharge papers], but in those days they charged you for that and the boys just didn't buy the program, that's all.

Then he decided to fingerprint the appointees. Well, he ran into one fella who had just served sixty months on a Georgia chain gang. He brought that to the member's attention, and the member told him to forget it completely. He was his appointee and he would take the sweat if there was any. We ran into one who had a long record of

page 106

attempted rape, larceny. It was a good one. He ended up a lieutenant! (Laughter) Retired from here as a lieutenant. Well, he had a strong sponsor and he did a lot of work at the sponsor's house. He owned a home out in Virginia.

BAKER: Was this on the Senate side?

BALLARD: No, House side. He spent all his spare time out there working around the yard, in the garden, and the horses, and that bit. He wasn't about to drop him. He didn't drop him. In fact when they first brought it to his attention, he had him promoted to sergeant! And then it wasn't too long after that that he had him promoted to lieutenant.

The records stayed there and Bob Pearce came up [as chief] from Metropolitan, the first outside appointment we had. He went through the records and he found this one. The fellow was then a lieutenant, and he couldn't believe it. And he called me down, and I said, "Yes, and if you go through more you'll find similar, but there's nothing you can do about it, chief, not a thing. This is not downtown." Well, he was going to do something about it. He called the sponsor. The sponsor came over. They don't often do that. But he came in the office and was in there just a short time and left. Pearce called me back. What happened was he came in and he wanted to know about this record. And Pearce had the clerk bring the folder

page 107

and show it to him. He took it out of the folder. He tore it up and he dropped it in the waste paper basket and he says, "I don't want this man ever fingerprinted again." He thanked Pearce for his time and went back over. He wasn't fingerprinted again.

BAKER: The sponsor had gotten a little tired of hearing complaints about his man.

BALLARD: That's right, so he decided to get rid of it for once and for all. In those days, it was a standing joke among the men, "Don't get in front of a camera." And when Buck got caught, that was really it. (Laughter) "We have told you time and again, 'Don't get in front of a camera.'"

BAKER: And now look what happens, you've got all eight kids down on you. (Laughter)

BALLARD: And we had an old joke, "Does your family know you're up here on the Capitol Police Force?" And they said, "No, they think I'm in Pittsburgh stealing cars."

BAKER: Just thinking about the quality of the men on the force, was it uneven until the late 1960s when patronage ended?

BALLARD: We did have some with records. But to my knowledge, they never created a disturbance, not a bit. They went ahead with their work. I think they thought they were lucky to be where they

page 108

were, and really handled themselves. And of course we had students, so these men were the ones who had to do the work. The students had to study. You had to understand that. You had to put that man . . . if he came to you and told you he had an examination tomorrow, put him on a post in an out-of-the-way place where he could study. If you didn't, he'd walk out and go home.

BAKER: And there was nothing you could do about it.

BALLARD: There was nothing on earth you could do about it. To my knowledge, the fellows I knew who came here with police records didn't cause us a bit of trouble. The fella who served five years [at hard labor] worked here three years and bought a filling station nearby. Kept it several years and sold it. We bought gas from him, we [the Police] had an account over there. He owns some stations out in Maryland now . . . a good citizen. You had a few who would shirk, but you have that anywhere.

We had two fellows on the Capitol third relief. They were sort of sure of their patronage. They were in the Senate Office Building. And they were sitting there, gossiping. In those days, everybody traveled by rail. Now, Scott Lucas was the Senate majority leader [949-51] He came down the corridor with a couple of big bags. He looked in there and saw the men sitting at the desk and he said that he wanted some help to get out to get a cab to go to Union Station. He said, "Would one of you fellows give me a hand?" And one of them

page 109

reached over and picked his [police] cap up from the desk. And he said, "Senator, I think you're looking for a red cap. This is a blue cap!"

BAKER: No. He didn't do that? (Laughter)

BALLARD: Well, Lucas went on out. But when he came back on Monday, I want to tell you, there was some paperwork. But he couldn't clip him. They had it and they knew it. He tried his best to bounce 'em.

BAKER: I wonder whose patronage they were under?

BALLARD: I've forgotten. I think one of them was under [Harley] Kilgore of West Virginia, and of course, Kilgore was a power. In those days, you had the good and the bad. It would have been common courtesy for one of them to get up and help the senator out to the cab.

BAKER: Given the fact that was what many of the men of the force did . . . it was expected.

BALLARD: Yes. And we are supposed to be semi-professional. Today, they would do it. But then, they were independent. That was part of the patronage system. They would take care of their man and let the rest of them go.

page 110

BAKER: At the time, did you think that sooner or later all that would have to change?

BALLARD: I knew the police force was going to have to change because conditions were changing. More people were coming to the Hill. More employees were coming to the Hill. There were more activities . . . rumbles, demonstrations. We had one demonstration where 3,000 shipyard workers from Brooklyn came down. There wasn't anything we could do about it because you can't throw a tomato against a tank. We just stayed away. We hid out. They eventually went back. In those days, they all traveled by train. They went back to Union Station, took a train and went back. They created some disturbance, but in those days, the members [of Congress] didn't think they had a police force, so they didn't criticize the police force for not taking a part in it. They thought we were just appointees to do what they wanted, not to keep any order. If you'd get to that point, you'd call Metropolitan. But I knew that had to change, because you couldn't depend on Metropolitan for everything.

Now the night they electrocuted the Rosenbergs [June 19, 1953], it was Saturday night, I'm sure . . . this Hill was black with people. I was in the captain's office in those days, and I came down here for some reason, and I called the captain . . . he lived over in Anacostia. He said, "Just tell the men to stay inside the building

page 111

and don't get involved, because there's nothing you can do about it." We only had thirty men on duty in all of the buildings, they were covering the doors and posts. It was hard to get Congress to appropriate money for men. It finally took until they just about tore the buildings down. When they were going to open the Rayburn Building [in 1964]. Well, fifty men--now that wasn't enough to cover the grounds, the garages, and the building. But, if you'd asked for a hundred, they'd knock you right down. I went before the [House] committee [on March 20, 1964], the chief was sick, and I asked for fifty-two men. Fifty privates, a lieutenant, and a sergeant. I had no trouble getting them.

BAKER: I read your testimony for that hearing. Why did you ask for fifty?

BALLARD: Well, we decided on fifty. The Sergeant at Arms [of the House], Zeake Johnson, and I got together before the committee hearing and we decided that we'd ask for fifty and we'd get the fifty. Then they'd forget that, and when we got a new committee [due to member turnover on the specific subcommittee], which changes every two years, just about, especially that committee, then we'll go and ask for more.

BAKER: Congress, as an institution, seems to have a very short collective memory.

page 112

BALLARD: Oh, yes. Now that was my first appearance before a committee. It surprised me how little the committee really knew about the police force. That put me right in the pocket. That made me feel so much better. "They don't know what I'm talking about, these men don't." Now, there was one member [of the subcommittee], from Iowa, a Republican. He questioned me pretty thoroughly. He wanted to know why our men had to work eight-hour shifts and go home, whereas Metropolitan didn't quit on an eight-hour shift, if something was happening. Well, I had a little background on the members, on all of them.

BAKER: Did you get that on your own before you went into the hearing?

BALLARD: You're darned right. I wasn't going in there blind. Well, I found out that he lived in the Coronet [Apartments--on Capitol Hill near the House office buildings] and at night he rode around in the precinct with the Metropolitan Police. I told him I thought the reason was because the Metropolitan police got paid for overtime and we don't. He said, "You don't?" And I said, "No, congressman, we come under the same rules as your staff. We can work seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day with no additional compensation." He said, "I didn't know that." Now, I saw him a couple of days later and he did compliment me on my presentation. Now, of course we had to go to the Appropriations Committee to get the money

page 113

for salary and equipment. Now, old man [Thomas] Steed of Oklahoma was chairman of that and I had no problem with him. He was very cooperative. He wanted to know if we had gear, and I told him we did. You have to wring it [appropriations] out of them, because they don't know, even today, that there's a police force up here . . . half of them don't.

BAKER: That's surprising, because all they have to do is look out across the Capitol plaza and they'll see fifteen white shirts.

BALLARD: That's it. They have never put us down as a police force. We're a Senate employee, or a House employee, and we're just here to do their bidding. Until something happens, like the Puerto Rican shooting . . . and then they were going to do away with the Capitol Police Force . . . nothing but a nuisance.

I don't care what committee you go before, House or Senate, for men . . always ask for more than you think you can get because they're going to clip it out, I don't know why, but they are going to knock you down some. So always ask for more than you expect to get. It has happened in ever case I've known since I've been here. [Chief] Powell went up here at the time of the Watergate hearings but a member said, "When I was on my way up here, I passed fifteen policemen standing and talking, so take fifteen off of this request you have." So we took fifteen off.

page 114

BAKER: My goodness.

BALLARD: That's the rule they use and you have to be awfully careful. When Styles Bridges was chairman of the Appropriations Committee [1953-54], he got us a pay raise . . . a dandy . . . for the police. He was a good friend of the police and we were good friends of his, too. His administrative assistant came over to the office to see me. I had known him when I was in the Senate Office Building. I took him back and introduced him to [Chief] Pearce. Pearce hadn't been here long. I asked him, "Has this been okayed by Mr. [Carl] Hayden?" And he said, "Yeah." Well, I went to roll call the next morning and I told the men, "Please do us all a favor. For the next couple or three days just play it as straight as you can play. Don't gang up. Don't be seen anywhere you are not supposed to be seen. If you can keep your skirts clean for a couple days, we're going to get a pay raise. But if one of you gets out of line, he's going to kill us." Apparently everybody did, because we got a substantial raise.

BAKER: And that was when the Republicans were in the majority?

BALLARD: That's right.

BAKER: But they still felt it was necessary to clear it with Hayden, a Democrat, because he'd been around so long

page 115

BALLARD: Well, I did, because Hayden was not only on the Rules Committee he was the ranking Democrat on Appropriations. He'd cut you to ribbons.

BAKER: And the fact that he happened to be in the minority party at the time . .

BALLARD: Oh, no. That didn't make any difference to me, because Hayden had the strength, regardless of where he was.

BAKER: Hayden's Hayden.

BALLARD: They'd listen to that fella and I knew that.

BAKER: I read the transcript of the occasion in the mid-1950s [June 9, 1958] when Pearce was chief and he was testifying before a House committee. Some of the members said, "Well, we come through that plaza in the mornings and we look and we see four policeman sitting in a car smoking. And we just never see any men out there [on duty]."

BALLARD: That's right, that's right.

BAKER: And they took a break in the hearing after raking this man over the coals. The chairman walked outside on the plaza and looked around and he didn't see one man out there at all! (Laughter)

page 116

BALLARD: That's it. I don't care how professional you are, you still have that problem. They just will not try to protect themselves and you have to do it. Sometimes they get aggravated because you bang them over the head all the time, but you have to do it. You know when these things are coming up. You do it for your good and their good, but it's hard.

BAKER: I suppose it has always been difficult to get a police private to think in political terms, in this political environment.

BALLARD: Oh, certainly. Even when there was patronage. He was here to get an education.

BAKER: Is that true now?

BALLARD: Oh, very true. You'd be surprised. One of the worst outfits we have is that patrol detail down there. Now, they don't care who it is. They'll stop him, they'll ticket him. If I had my way about it, I'd break that thing up and put lem out on traffic or in the building or somewhere or other.

BAKER: How long has it been in existence?

BALLARD: Four or five years, but you don't need it on Capitol Hill.

BAKER: There's not enough land territory . . .

page 117

BALLARD: Of course not. A few streets. Of course, they go off their territory a lot, and I've often said it's going to get them in trouble. And we're lucky, or we'd be in trouble now over it. And they get out chasing cars. You don't need that kind of a police force on Capitol Hill. You see, this place closes down at dusk. It's over. If you had stores or shops or bars, that'll be different, but a curtain comes down here at nightfall. You don't have to hurt people, but they hunt 'em up. And ticket, ticket, ticket! You can go down here every evening and watch them turn in their tickets.

BAKER: How many tickets will they get over the course of a day?

BALLARD: Oh, sometimes a couple hundred.
(Portions Deleted)

page 118

BAKER: Your tickets go through the District court?

BALLARD: Yes, but you see, it creates a resentment among the employees. They are the ones you want to take care of because your purpose up here is to take care of the employees and the members, that's what you're here for. When I was in charge of the Capitol detail, I didn't allow a ticket to be written within my jurisdiction without notifying me. They had to find me first. And writing tickets on parked cars--that was out. Strictly. There was [in my book] nobody illegally parked, because I looked at it this way . . . I had a [police] man in every drive. If he was doing his job, there were no cars in there that weren't supposed to be. In the afternoon maybe 2:00 o'clock, he would turn loose his drive . . . let the tourists come in because all the employees were in that were going to be in that day. Well, here comes the third relief of the patrol detail, up and down the drive writing tickets. Oh, boy! If I didn't come over here and see the chief. I told him, you keep those characters off the Capitol [grounds] with their ticket books. Because it was embarrassing to the men in the drives. They had told those people to park there. Here the person comes back the next day, "You got me a ticket."

BAKER: They don't know anything about one shift leaving and the next one coming in.

page 119

BALLARD: I didn't like tickets. They [tickets] had no business in being up here in the first place. But everybody has to have a traffic book.

BAKER: And if you create a patrol detail, then their reason for existence is to write tickets.

BALLARD: That's right, but they could be used in so many other places. It creates a lot of ill will. You see, the lowest employees in an office can help you and can help the police department. But if every time they park a car you throw a ticket on them, you are not going to get much from them. And I always looked at it this way, any time you opened a door to one of these offices, be sure there was somebody in their to say, "Come in." Not say, "What do you want" and send you down the corridor.

BAKER: You wanted a friend on the other side of that door.

BALLARD: That's right. And it may be that that receptionist is the lowest paid person in there, but she can make it nice for you, or she can make it tough for you, because you have to get by her. And that's the game I always played.

There wasn't a door over here I couldn't open. Of course, as I said before, I was never a policeman. I wasn't cut out to be a policeman. I've spent thirty-seven years on the police force, but I'm still not a policeman. Because, up here it is not police work. It's public relations.

page 120

BAKER: It's a very special kind of position.

BALLARD: That's what it is and if it is handled right, it's a lot of fun. There's times when you have thefts or something like that that has to be taken care of. That's to protect the people up here. There's not much of it. You'd be surprised how much is in the office.

BAKER: Theft by the employees.

BALLARD: That's right. Not the Service Department . . .

BAKER: So you are saying that it is not the cleaning crews taking liquor and things like that.

BALLARD: That's right. I hadn't been [stationed] over at the Senate Office Building but a short time, I was a sergeant, and I got a call to come up to Senator Knowland of California's office. Something was missing from one of the drawers. Well, I went down to Mrs. Payne, who was in charge of the charwomen, and I had the chairperson's name who cleaned up in that room. I asked her, "How long has she been cleaning that room?" And she said, "Twenty-three years." And I said, "Have you ever had a complaint about her?" She said, "No, not yet." So I thought, "It wasn't her." So I took my temporary fingerprint box up to the office and said, "Now, I'm going to have to fingerprint everybody in the office so that the next time

page 121

something like this happens, we can eliminate these prints." That was the last theft they had in the office.

BAKER: An excellent way to handle it. Did you ever have to do that again in any other office?

BALLARD: No. You'd be surprised. I know there were thefts, but they wouldn't report it. But I stopped the thefts in Knowland's office.

BAKER: Did you get calls from receptionists and secretaries who had visits from strange characters or people who looked like they might be troublesome?

BALLARD: Oh. That happened four or five times a day.

BAKER: Secretaries have little silent alarm devices under their desks to call for help?

BALLARD: In those days, that was before the sophisticated electronics, but we used to get a telephone call down at the office, "The package has arrived in 318." A girl is on the phone. Well, you know she has got a visitor in there that she can't handle. There's something wrong. So, you send a plain-clothesman. And if you don't have a plain-clothesman--we only had a couple--you'd grab a uniformed man and tell him to get into his locker and get his civilian clothes on and go up to the office and sit there and observe. And sometimes

page 122

he'd bring him out. Now the chances were that we could talk him into going on about his business. But, sometimes, you had to commit 'em. Take them out to Saint E's [St. Elizabeth's psychiatric hospital].

BAKER: That must have been very, very delicate . . .

BALLARD: That's right, because you didn't know who you were dealing with. You didn't know who that person was from home. He might be a relative of an influential person back there that could do [political] harm to the senator. So you had to handle them with kid gloves.

Now, we had one case during the Watkins hearings over the censure of [Senator Joseph] McCarthy. I went up to see [Senator Arthur] Watkins, a fine old man from Utah, and I asked him to give me the ground rules on the hearings. I knew they'd be peculiar. He said, "There will be no television, no radio, no smoking, no standing, nothing but scribblers." We didn't have too many men then, but I told them the ground rules. Well, the second day, after the hearings, he called me into his office and said he'd gotten a call from CBS and NBC to say that they had been offered a tape of the hearings. I said that I would look into it. So, the next morning before we went up there I told the boys, "Somebody's taping those." In those days, tapes didn't have [a range of] too much distance. "Who ever's doing it has to be up close to the committee [table]. Just keep your eyes open." Well, I had a young fellow--he was a law

page 123

student from Indiana, a pretty sharp character--so I told him, "You be exceptionally observant. Don't pay any attention to the order. You pay attention to the people in there."

I was standing outside of 318 [the Senate Caucus Room] and he came out [with a suspect]. What caught his attention was a safety pin on his [the suspect's] pocket. And my boy said to him, "What is that?" And he acted like he didn't hear him. So he raised his voice, although in a committee room, he couldn't raise it too much. But he raised it some. "What did you say it was?" He said, "It's a hearing aid. I am hard of hearing." Well, the boy didn't think that a hearing aid would be pinned in his pocket. So he said, "Come outside." So he came out to me and I said, "Let's

take him down to the Guard Room. " So, we went down. I don't know how the word got around. We unpinned the speaker and we told him, "That's not a hearing aid." Well, he had a tape recorder and had made a bag and had it around his neck under his shirt.

BAKER: And in those days, tape recorders were large.

BALLARD: Oh, yes. It was a heavy thing. He had paid \$400 for it in New York. Well, the word got out and here came the press. But we didn't let them get near him. But when the committee broke at noon, I took him up to Senator Watkins-- to his office. I said, "Here's your tape. Are you going to bring any charges?" And he said, "No. Can you erase the tape?" I said, "No, we can't, but

page 124

Metropolitan can." And he said. "Well, take the tape down and erase it and give him back his machine. Take him to Union Station and be sure he gets on a train back to New York. (Laughter) Watkins was very complimentary of us for it. But I told the clown [the suspect], "Fella, if you had taken these back to New York and made you some records and after the hearing was over sold the records . . . You know NBC or CBS network couldn't afford to touch this for the simple reason that the Senate would bar 'em from the Hill. "But you could have sold records like nobody's business." He said, "Well, I've spent \$400 for this plus expenses down here." I said, "You just dropped it all fella, because my orders are to put you on the train." And we did. Watkins was pretty kind to us . . . wrote us a nice letter.

BAKER: He could be a pretty tough guy . . . pretty irascible.

BALLARD: He was nice to deal with, but you didn't want to go on the other side of him. When he told me what was to happen in that committee room, I told the men, "This is it now and nothing else. I don't care who comes in there . . . with a camera, they don't go in, cause he'll rip us up.

BAKER: There must have been great problems of crowd control for those hearings.

page 125

BALLARD: There were. Of course, the Army-McCarthy hearings really had problems of crowd control with people lined up down the stairs, because those were televised and advertised. Every celebrity who hit town made for the Hill because there was live TV. And, of course, we didn't have many men in those days. I had five men to work the committee. That was all we had.

BAKER: Were the Watkins hearings open to the public?

BALLARD: Yes, but there were certain rules and regulations. He was a stickler, and that's what he got. I tried to give him what ever he wanted.

I was walking down with [Senator Karl] Mundt one night from the Army-McCarthy hearings and he said that things were very orderly that day. It was jammed packed. Standing and everything. And I said, "We didn't have but five faint today." And he said, "Five fainted?" I said, "Yeah, there are some every day." He said, "I've never seen . . ." I said, "No you won't. We have officers stationed through there and we have that back door and we take them through the back door and there's an attendant from the doctor's office back there and they revive them and send them on their way." And he spoke of that the next morning when he opened up the hearing and mentioned that even the committee didn't know they fainted. Of course, he said that we'd come under quite a bit of criticism, and we had, over the Puerto Rican shooting.

page 126

BAKER: That 's true. And the House at that time had passed the bill to "professionalize" the force.

BALLARD: He said he thought it was unjust. We tried to redeem ourselves. We killed the bill on the Senate side. The captain, who was a former state trooper had no political knowledge, and we knew that, and we used politics on him. He didn't even know what was hitting him. I think I told you, I went to his office and asked him to put us under the bill to blanket in every person [on the force] who was on the Hill on the day of enactment. He wouldn't do it.

BAKER: That was the end of him at that point.

BALLARD: I told him, "You're in for a fight, Captain." Of course, we knew where the power was. It was in the women, and that's what we worked on. We worked on the women, and boy, I'll tell you, we set him ablaze. (Laughter)

BAKER: Next thing he knew, he was on the outside looking in.

BALLARD: That's right. He lost the battle, the war, the job, everything else. (Laughter)

BAKER: The whole works.

BALLARD: That's right. Those women weren't going to stand for us being abused. If I had something that I wanted actually to lobby, I would hire a former congressman's wife, or a senator's wife,

page 127

because they're familiar with these people. They are entitled to come up here to those luncheons every Tuesday, even if their husband's not here any longer. There's where I'd put my lobby.

BAKER: Do you think that there are wives of former members who do that?

BALLARD: I don't know whether any of them are doing it or not, but I know a lot of them could use the money. You pick the right one, she could be so subtle that they'd never know it. Would be very effective. I know we killed a good bill that way.

BAKER: (Laughing) You sure did.

Now I'd like to turn to a discussion of the kinds of services the Capitol Police provide members. You mentioned Karl Mundt a few minutes ago. That reminded me of the story you told [off tape] of getting him out to National Airport. And you told a story about getting two senators out to Griffith Stadium.

BALLARD: In those days you thought your job was to take care of members regardless of what they wanted. The Sergeant at Arms always had a standing policy of "Clear it with me before you move [drive] any of them." In other words, that's all right, because the Sergeant at Arms is making his brownie points, too. So you let him make his

page 128

and you make yours. Now, we didn't clear anything with the Sergeant at Arms. If they wanted to go somewhere, to go to the airport, or Baltimore, we took 'em.

BAKER: Did the Sergeant at Arms expect you to say to the member, "I'm sorry, I can't help you until you clear it with the Sergeant at Arms and get his permission?"

BALLARD: That's what he thought. But we weren't going to do that. You know that. We knew politics well enough to know that he wasn't going to say anything to us, after he found out that we'd made the trips or whatever we'd done, because we would run right straight to that member and say we'd got in trouble.

BAKER: You had one grateful member on your hands.

BALLARD: That's right. And then that member's going to go to him and say, "Now listen. I don't want to hear any more about this. He took me and that's it." So, you played one against the other. Now a lot of times you didn't want to do it, but if a member flagged you, that's all you'd want to do.

Now Mike Palm used to have a restaurant on the corner of Independence Avenue and Second Street. It was very, very popular with the House members. He even had the [legislative] bell system in the back room where they drank.

page 129

BAKER: He had a special back room just for House members?

BALLARD: That's right. He had the bell system there. Now, we used to actually ferry them from the House wing to Mike Palm's and nobody knew it but us.

BAKER: And particularly ferry them back after they were through drinking.

BALLARD: Naturally. I don't suppose the House Sergeant at Arms ever knew it. But we had some good friends there.

BAKER: Were you on the Capitol detail at that point?

BALLARD: Yes. I had the House over to Independence Avenue. That was my jurisdiction. Independence, First Street, Constitution Avenue . . . all within that is the Capitol detail.

BAKER: I see. So because Mike Palm's was close to Independence Avenue . . .

BALLARD: That's right. You did what they asked you to do. We never got into any trouble. I never did.

BAKER: So there you were one day in April 1953 in the squad car and passed on the street corner Senator (deleted) and Senator (deleted) and their wives waiting to go down to Griffith Stadium for opening day of the baseball season.

page 130

BALLARD: That was right here on Delaware Avenue, right in front of the Senate Office Building at Delaware and Constitution. A fella by the name of Bacon was the squad car driver. Ray and I were just standing there, and I knew what they wanted. I said to Ray, "Go ahead. I knew they want to go somewhere, but there's nothing we can do now. We're in sight."

BAKER: They'd seen you.

BALLARD: So we pulled over and I said, "Can I help you?" He said, "Yeah. We can't get a cab and we want to go to the ball park. It's the opening game." And I said, "Oh, yeah, I know about that." I said, "Okay, we're going in that direction." Naturally. I got out and we put the two women in the back with one senator. And [put] the other senator in between Ray and I up front. We were going down New Jersey Avenue. As I say, Ray Bacon, if there was a traffic jam in the metropolitan area, Ray would find it. We went down New Jersey Avenue, and sure enough they were going to the ball park, move a little bit, then move a little bit, little bit. We got fairly close.

We hadn't had the radios very long and here came a call over the radio to go to the Senate Door [of the Capitol], that a man had a heart attack in the old Supreme Court Room--the Labor Committee met there in those days--and to break down the [revolving] Senate [wing entrance] doors. Well the doors in those days were old fashioned.

You spread them out and you had a bar that was on one door and you hooked it in an eye on the other door, and that kept the doors apart.

BAKER: Were they like accordion-type doors.

BALLARD: Yeah. Then you'd break the bar and put them back and push the door over to one side on its tracks. So we sat there in that danged traffic and finally I said--I had the radio--"Okay, door is broken, everything ready. Okay." There's a pause. We have moved up a couple car lengths and then we had to stop. Here comes the outriders. Ike [President Eisenhower] is on his way to the ball game. Well, about that time, the dispatcher says, "Do you see anything of the ambulance?" And I said, "Yeah, here he is right now." And I opened up the speaker and stuck it out and the outriders went by with sirens wailing. (Laughter) I said, "Do you hear them?" "Yeah, okay." A little bit farther, "Got the man out . . . put the door back together." Sitting there in that traffic, and finally we moved up to the ball park.
(Portions Deleted)

But, I thought it was great there. Here we were on the way to the ball park and they were talking their political strategy. Anyhow, we let them out. And (deleted) said, "I know that you are in trouble over this, I know that. Any person who can be on New Jersey Avenue, break down a Senate door, get a man out of the Old Supreme Court, put the doors back together, and get him to Casualty Hospital, setting in traffic on New Jersey Avenue can always have a job with me. (Laughter) "And if they say one word to you, come to my office." After that, (deleted), who had an office in the Capitol . . . I'd be standing there every morning and he'd come in and he'd get behind one of those columns and say, "Do you see anything of an ambulance?" (Laughter) He did that as long as he stayed here. Now the old senator from Illinois . . .

BAKER: Paul Douglas?

BALLARD: Douglas. One night he was standing outside the Delaware [Avenue] door [to the Senate Office Building] and had on that old searsucker suit that he wore all the time . . . hair looked like a rooster . . . it was pouring down rain, he was soaked. I went by. I thought he'd flagged me. He didn't. So, I went around the building. I've forgotten who was driving the car. The third time though, I pulled up beside him. And I said, "Senator, you are going to get soaked. Get in the car and let us take you home. You can't find a cab here this time of the evening. We haven't run across any

or we would have directed them down to you. They are just not available. Get in the car." Well, he said, "I can't." I said, "Oh, yes you can. Come on now. " So I got

out and put him in the back seat and he said, "How many times have I stood up on the [Senate] floor and said that 'Every free ride in Washington ought to be painted yellow so everybody would know who was on a free ride'." And I said, "Well, you're not too far out of line. On the side of this car, in big yellow paint, is a police sign." (Laughing) We had a black car and the police insignia was yellow. I said, "Just get down in the back seat and if anybody passes they won't know you." We took him home. He was tickled to death for us to do it. He was very chatty. You know he entered the Marines as a private and he said that he would rather get the congressional medal of honor than be president of the United States. He was a great old man. I liked him.

BAKER: He was a great defender of the Indiana Dunes. He once said near the end of his Senate career that when he came to the Senate, he came to save the world. And then he adjusted his sites a little bit being content just to save the country. And he finally decided that if he could only save the Indiana Dunes, he'd feel okay.

BALLARD: You know, he fought the Pentagon from the word go and he was right in most cases.

page 134

We used to take [Senator Thomas] Hennings home. We always took him home because he was drunk. We wouldn't let him drive. Held park his car in front of the Capitol, but we wouldn't let him get in it. We'd load him up in the squad car. Held always give you his necktie. I don't know how many neckties I got from Tom Hennings.

BAKER: Why did he do that?

BALLARD: I do not know. (Laughter) Well, one afternoon, I was busy, and I had another car there. And I asked the fella [officer] if he was familiar with the northwest [portion of Washington]. He said he was. I didn't see him until later. I asked him, "Did you get the senator home all right?" He said, "Oh, yeah." I said, "What kind of a necktie did he give you?" And he laughed and he said, "Did you know he gave me a necktie?" I said, "He always gives you his necktie." He said, "That's what he did." He was going to save it.

BAKER: Hennings must have been grateful to you.

BALLARD: He was, but the next day you didn't approach him on it, or say anything. Senator (deleted). He used to get bombed. And he was always losing his car. That's the truth. We'd spend the whole day in the area. "Do you remember where you started, senator?" Held call me up on the [Senate] floor, up in the cloakroom. "I lost my car again

page 135

last night." "Now can you tell me where you started?" Well, he could give me some leads and we'd always find it. Bring it up and park it.

BAKER: Did you get the impression with people like those that they could function pretty well during the day? And it was only near the end that the bottle got to them?

BALLARD: Neither one of them were powerhouses. Whether they didn't want to be or couldn't be. They voted and that was about all. I don't suppose that anybody can remember any legislation that they ever sponsored. You had so many of those. Functionaries who just came along for the ride.

BAKER: Pretty easy for you to spot them early in their careers, I'll bet.

BALLARD: That's right. Back when I came here, you had about eighteen senators who ran the Senate. And I think we got along much better than we do today. It didn't take as long to do things. You got good legislation. To me, those were better days.

Now, I did feel sorry for two men who came here at roughly the same time. That was the California song and dance men--George Murphy, and [Edward] Brooke of Massachusetts. They came here within a year or so of each other [Murphy in 1965 and Brooke in 1967]. They came here with labels, "Song and Dance Man From Hollywood" and "First

page 136

Black in a Hundred Years." And the spotlight was right on both of them. It was hard for them. Of course, neither one of them lasted long and neither one of them did a great deal. But it was hard for them to do anything because they were labeled. Maybe if they hadn't been, they might have been better off.

BAKER: Do you think that applies to people like John Glenn today. He came as a celebrity astronaut.

BALLARD: Yeah. That has a whole lot to do with his presidential campaign.

BAKER: The other astronaut, Harrison Schmitt of New Mexico was just here for one term.

BALLARD: That's all.

BAKER: I did want to ask you about that trip to Griffith Stadium. When you got back to the Capitol, did you have face any music? Was there any problem?

BALLARD: Oh, no, no, no.

BAKER: How did they actually get that guy out of the Old Supreme Court Chamber?

BALLARD: They got him out of there in an ambulance, took him to Casualty Hospital, and he was dead on arrival.

page 137

BAKER: Somebody else broke the door down?

BALLARD: The man on the door. We *knew* he would! (Laughter)

BAKER: This was the revolving door at the so-called "Senate Door" entrance to the Capitol?

BALLARD: Yes. It used to be an old door in four sections and you would take a bar and hook it in there and that kept them apart. In order to open it, you took the bar off, put it up against the door, folded them up, and pushed them on a little track over to the side. You didn't use it that much on the Senate side, but it was used frequently on the House side. Because of joint sessions, joint meetings where there were lots of people coming through. Now young [Representative John F.] Kennedy . . . I was hooking the door on the House side. It was the opening day of Congress and, of course, all the families were in and we had opened up the doors to get them out. The House had gone back into session and I was trying to hook this section over and every time I'd get it over there, here was a young chap on the outside pushing the door. So I put up with it for a few minutes, but finally I got up. I used a little profanity. "Would you keep your so-and-so hands off that damn door until I get it hooked together." (Laughing) And he stepped back. Well, about that time, the fella [officer] on the House Door came and got me by the seat of the pants and pulled me back and said, "That's a new member. That's Kennedy of Massachusetts." He was so young, but this boy on

page138

the House Door had met him the day before. "And he's trying to get in." I said, "Oh, all right." So I broke the door and I said, "I'm sorry." He said, "I'm sorry that I got in your way, but I don't want to miss a chance for my first vote." I said, "Well, I don't blame you. Get in and get in the elevator and get up there." The old doors were bad.

BAKER: We have a photograph of you standing at a door over on the House side at the time of a presidential address, much later.

BALLARD: That was the last time that Kennedy was at the Capitol [January 14, 1963]. He and Mrs. Kennedy and an officer by the name of Ralph Scalzo and I were there with old man George Stewart [Architect of the Capitol]. That was his last . . . he was coming up to address a joint session . . . but that was the last visit he ever made to the Capitol.

When he was laying in state in the Rotunda, we had had a dry run on [former President Herbert Hoover. About three months before that. You know the military over at Fort Myer, they are supposed to be in charge. They don't have too many candidates for [laying in] the Rotunda. But they used to have a lot of them. So many of those military men had never even been in the Capitol Building or on the Capitol grounds. So, they would come over--about twenty-five or thirty--in a bus in civilian clothes so they wouldn't attract attention. I would give them a dry run of the Rotunda. There was a

page 139

little room down there right off the Crypt [ground floor] on the Senate side. It was used as a committee room of some sort. And I would take them in there. We had a few charts and I went over it with them. And then we'd walk through. "The House of Representatives on this side and the Senate on this" . . . all that business.

BAKER: You don't take anything for granted.

BALLARD: No. Well, we had [a dry run] three months before for Hoover. He was in a hospital in New York. In fact, I don't know how long the military detail stayed up there [in New York] so they could pick him up. Kennedy's made it look like it was easy for us, and it was. 'Cause we had just had a dry run.

BAKER: And, of course, Kennedy died before Hoover died.

BALLARD: Now, I have had an official part in more state funerals than any person who ever lived.

BAKER: Starting with Pershing . . .

BALLARD: Down through Hubert Humphrey's. And more inaugurations than any other official here. Truman's was the first one. Of course, the boys who were setting up the state funeral would say, "If you have any questions, ask Ballard. He was here for Lincoln's." (Laughter) "And he knows how to do them."

page 140

BAKER: Well, it shows you that people don't write things down around here. They really rely on people who have been here a long time to get important procedural information.

BALLARD: "What'd ya do last time?" There's very little written. It should be.

BAKER: It really should. One other thing we discussed off tape was your chasing Vice President Alben Barkley out to Winchester, Virginia.

BALLARD: I got a call from Barkley's administrative assistant, Bill Vaughn, a good friend of mine. Of course, as I say, I knew everybody in the Senate Office

Building. He called me one morning and said that the vice president had left for Winchester, Virginia to make a speech and to be grand marshal of the apple blossom festival parade. But he discovered after he left that he had left his glasses and said, "He can't read a line without them." He said, "Do you think you can catch him?" And I said, "We can try, Bill." I got his glasses and went down to the squad car on Constitution Avenue and said, "Joe, have you ever seen the apple blossom festival in Winchester?" And Joe said no. Joe was from Georgia and he didn't even know they had an apple blossom festival. (Laughter) I said, "I've got a pair of glasses here for Alben Barkley, but don't drive too fast, and we'll see it." So we made a stroll to Winchester.

page 141

BAKER: If you'd driven faster, you would have overtaken him and had no reason to continue onto the festival.

BALLARD: Oh, yes. Then it would have been shot. So, we found him at a restaurant having lunch. They had a room set aside for the dignitaries. And we delivered the glasses. He thanked us. We stayed around for most of the parade and had a lot of fun. We didn't go back until around 5:00 o'clock. When we got back, some of the boys on the front [of the Capitol] said, "Well, you clowns have been getting by with everything, but you have had it this time. The captain sent word that when you get back to put the squad car up. You are fired. The lieutenant's in the same mood." I said, "Well, okay." The next morning, bright and early, I made it for Bill Vaughn's office. I said, "Bill, you know yesterday we weren't able to catch the vice president until they got to Winchester. And there's a little static about it. And I was wondering if you would write a letter to Joe Duke thanking us for delivering the glasses." And he said, "I understand exactly. What kind of a problem?" And I said, "Off the record, Bill, we stayed for the parade." He said, "I don't blame you." He wrote a letter, it was a dandy, signed "Alben Barkley." He said to his secretary, "I want this hand delivered over to the Sergeant at Arms office just as soon as I sign it." He said, "I think that'll take care of it, Ballard." So, I thanked him. That was the last we ever heard of the trip to Winchester. (Laughter) Alben Barkley stopped everything.

page 142

BAKER: I'll bet he did, even if he didn't know it.

BALLARD: Well, two-thirds of those letters are signed by somebody in the office.

BAKER: One other story you mentioned off tape was the police post in the Capitol Dome. A lot of people are curious about the Dome and why they can't climb up there as it was possible to do in earlier years.

BALLARD: They had to reinforce the Dome. It got dangerous. It was open to the public. Of course, in the summertime, by the time they got up there, they had just about had it. People would faint and get sick and we had to have a man up there.

It was a punishment post. Because there were no toilet facilities up there. You had to come down. If you'd goofed off the day before, you had a gallon water jug. Now at roll call, in the morning, you'd see the fella standing over there setting a water jug down, you'd know he'd been in trouble the day before. And sure enough, when they'd call the roll, "The Dome," he'd get out his water jug and take off.

BAKER: I'll bet you didn't see the same guy with that water jug two days in a row.

BALLARD: Not *too* often! Then when they remodeled the Dome they put steel up there, so you can't go up there [except in the company of a member of Congress].

page 143

BAKER: Were there other "punishment posts?"

BALLARD: No. That was it.

BAKER: That was the top post?

BALLARD: That was it. The Atomic Energy Committee [after 1951] met where the Old Supreme Court Room is now. They had a post in there. A desk. Across the bottom of the desk there was a bar. If you touched that bar, it alerted an agency downtown, a security agency, to come up to see what was the trouble. Well, the lieutenant [in charge] was a good friend of mine. He thought that that would be a good post for me because I could sit in there and I wouldn't have to patrol and I could read. But, I didn't want that post. That wasn't my bag at all. I liked to be out mingling with the people. But, I couldn't tell him, because I knew darned well if I did, then I was stuck forever. I was in there a week or so. And I touched that bar. Well, here came the cowboy from downtown. He grabbed the lieutenant.

BAKER: The cowboy from downtown?

BALLARD: Yeah. The security man. He had two guns strapped on him.

BAKER: Because it was the Joint Atomic Energy Committee?

page 144

BALLARD: Oh, yeah. I said, "Well, I don't think there is much wrong. Maybe I accidentally hit that bar." Well, okay. Well, about a week later, I touched it again. Here came cowboy. (Laughter) The lieutenant is fuming. "Now, Ballard, if you don't be more careful, I'm going to have to take you out of this place." And I said, "Oh, I don't want to leave this. This is right up my alley. I read." And he finally said, "Ballard, you're out of here now." I had to trick him.

BAKER: Why did you think that if you hadn't tricked him . . . what was the problem with that?

BALLARD: He thought it was a good post for me. He was the type of fella, if you had said, "I don't like this post," you'd have died on it. He would have seen that you died right there. (Laughter) So, I couldn't say I didn't want it. I just had to work my way out of it. He was a good friend, but you could trick him pretty easily. In those days, the name of the game was "Can you screw the official." When they were carving the front of the Capitol [for the East Front extension in the late 1950s], in the grassy plot near the entrance they built a [temporary] building and they set that block of marble there. They brought those stone carvers and they sculptured that front right there.

BAKER: The pediment over the East Front stairs?

page 145

BALLARD: Yes. That was carved right there on that grassy plot. Well, I used to enjoy that. I would sneak in there and watch them work for hours at a time. And I could hear the lieutenant hunting me. (Laughter) I had a way that when his voice drifted, I knew which way he went. And I'd go out the back door and into the building. And I'd run into him in the corridor. "I was hunting all over Hell for you." "Well, I've been down the corridor there." "Well, I wasn't down that way." And I'm sitting out there watching those stone masons.

BAKER: What was your post at that time?

BALLARD: Building patrol, which is a good one. But that is where I spent most of my time. They had a stove out there in the wintertime.

BAKER: How many carvers did they have in there?

BALLARD: They had five.

BAKER: And how long did that take?

BALLARD: Several months. Through a season.

BAKER: And they couldn't carve it someplace else and bring it in?

page 146

BALLARD: They probably could have, but I think they would rather it was done right there [as was the case a century earlier with the new House and Senate wings].

BAKER: That whole East Front extension project must have been very disruptive.

BALLARD: Oh, yes. You see it was fenced off. The fence ran from the Senate steps out and across. And the same with the House. And that area was used for building materials.

The sandstone from the original building, when it was taken down [in preparation for the new facade] it was measured and numbered and then an exact copy in granite was quarried and sent up there, whether it was from Georgia or Vermont. And that was all stacked out there. When they first started excavating there for that, that's when they found the three steps that led up to where the original cornerstone was supposed to have been. But it wasn't there. There was no cornerstone there. Some people think that [James] Hoban [one of the original architects who competed for the commission to design the Capitol] stole it when they fired him and took it with him. 'Cause that's when it disappeared. Well, the three steps and some of the bones of the ox roast were found there.

BAKER: From 1793?

page 147

BALLARD: Yes, September 18, 1793. A stone mason took one of those steps and cut it in three places and carved a masonic insignia in each one of those and gave one to the man who is now Inspector McDonald, and one to Herbie Price, who is a retired inspector, and one to me. And mine is now the cornerstone in my patio at home.

BAKER: My goodness. Were they sandstone?

BALLARD: Sandstone. Well, he took one of them and he gave us the other one and we put it down at the Architect's Office to store it there. And when they built the Shrine Temple over on Arlington Boulevard [in Virginia] the temple I belong to, well, George and Mac and Herbie and I gave them the [third] step for the cornerstone.

BAKER: Isn't that wonderful.

BALLARD: Oh, we got quite a bit of publicity.

BAKER: I bet you did.

BALLARD: I forget what was going on at the Capitol that day, a joint session . . . but none of us could get over to the laying of the cornerstone. But the cornerstone in the Shrine is one of the steps that George Washington used to go up to lay that [original Capitol] cornerstone.

BAKER: Where did the other one of the three steps go?

BALLARD: The stonemason took it.

BAKER: That's a wonderful story.
[End of Interview #5]

Leonard Ballard

Inspector, United States Capitol Police (1947-1984)

Interview #6

(Thursday, October 6, 1983)

Interviewed by Richard A. Baker

BAKER: Today, I'd like to begin by asking you about the South in the Senate. About some of the major Southern senators you have known.

BALLARD: When I came here, the Senate was more or less controlled by eighteen Southerners. They had it lock, stock, and barrel. I will say this. They transacted their business and went home. It was not like it is today with a year-round session. They went home in July. Sometimes they were here as late as August. They had short sessions during the day. It seemed to be operated more as a business than it is today.

Senator Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee, he was president pro tempore and then [1947] the Republicans took over. At that point, he was in his dotage. It never dawned on him at that point that he wasn't leader anymore. For instance on Saturdays, we'd be over in the cloakroom and McKellar would come over to open up [convene] the Senate! He'd come in. We knew what he was going to do. He'd go up in the [presiding officer's] chair and sit down. Well, that was our cue. We would go in and say, "Well, senator, they just called and they are not going to be in today." "Oh, they're not?" "No, not

page 150

today. So he would get down and go to the elevator. But on a couple of occasions, you would find him over at House wing of the Capitol at the elevator. I would approach him. "That elevator is not working today, senator. Let's go over to one that is working." And then, I would walk him through the building back over to the Senate elevator. "This one's operating, senator." Put him on it and go down. And he'd come over to his office. You just had to get him on the right elevator. He was in his eighties then.

You know, he had a battle with [columnist] Drew Pearson. He took to Drew Pearson with a cane. That was in his office.

BAKER: What was that all about?

BALLARD: Drew Pearson had written something that McKellar didn't receive too well. Then he asked McKellar for an appointment and McKellar granted it. I don't know how Pearson set him off, but McKellar ran him from his office. Of course, we didn't know anything about it until the next day. Nobody notified us, but they wouldn't.

Now [Senator John] Stennis was appointed in [Theodore] Bilbo's place. [Burnet] Maybank was an affable character, but a boozier of the first water. They were having a night session. Maybank was trying to locate an atomic energy plant in South Carolina. It was one of the first ones. Maybank was loaded to the gills. He had the floor, but he wouldn't give it up until they agreed to the location.

page 151

After they agreed, Russell Long got on one side of him and Wayne Morse got on the other side and just eased him off of the floor to the door and onto a couch in the cloakroom. You couldn't tell when you were going to catch him sober. I recall one inauguration. We had a time with him. Couldn't keep him anywhere. It must have been Kennedy's, or perhaps it was Truman's. In any event, we had a dickens of a time with him.

BAKER: He wouldn't stay in his place on the platform?

BALLARD: Yes. He was a well known boozier though. Of course, in those days, we had a lot of boozers. We had a roomful of them.

BAKER: Did they create any special problems for the police?

BALLARD: No. Not for us. We were determined to see that nobody bothered them. That was their business.

Joe Duke, when his office was [in S-208 of the Capitol] where Robert Byrd's [Democratic leader's] office is now, before he [the Sergeant at Arms] moved up to the third floor, his back room is currently known as the Kennedy Room. That was the "Key Club."

BAKER: Tell me about the "Key Club."

BALLARD: That was the name we gave it. Now, Joe had an old colored fellow by the name of Maurice. There was a refrigerator full of booze and mixes and that sort of stuff. And all the Democratic

page 152

members of the Senate had a key to that room. No Republicans. Just Democrats. They could come off of the floor, take the key and go in and have a sociable visit. Quite a few of them stayed in there for a while, you know what I mean?

BAKER: Was that the main place that they went for refreshment?

BALLARD: That was it.

BAKER: What about the Secretary of the Senate's Office?

BALLARD: No. Les Biffle had a drink in there for them. He didn't drink himself. But it wasn't a gathering place. The Key Club was a gathering place for them. We all knew it was there.

BAKER: Let's talk a little more about those Southern senators. You mentioned Theodore Bilbo. You had some dealings with him about the time he left the Senate in 1947.

BALLARD: There was some hitch about his reelection [in 1946] and they notified him, even his friends, that there was going to be a fight about his seat if he did show up. And he didn't show up and in the meantime he died before it could be worked out. More than likely, Richard Russell notified him that there was going to be a fight and he wouldn't make it. But things were beginning to change. The complexion was changing.

page 153

BAKER: Well, you had a Republican Senate in 1947, for the first time in many years. That meant new leaders. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 had just been passed. That was opening the door to more professionalism and more staff and more open procedures. It is interesting to detect the change in mood in the Senate. The old Senate and the new Senate. Maybe Bilbo's departure marks that. You mentioned something off tape about black employees at that time.

BALLARD: Yeah. They weren't here.

BAKER: Why not?

BALLARD: Bilbo wouldn't let them. He made it clear that there would be no black policemen at the time. I think he threatened to take his cane to them. You had Strom Thurmond who was anti all the way. Now he has just changed in the last few years. When he first came here, he was strictly [anti-black]. Joe Duke was afraid to appoint one. Dick Russell never showed it, but Duke was afraid to ruffle the feathers of those old Southerners. Now on the House side in the 80th Congress [1947-49], they appointed black policemen.

BAKER: A lot of these people were just getting out the military where it was more and more common for blacks and whites to serve together. So, why not in the police?

page 154

BALLARD: Yes. Now the House members, they weren't cut of that cloth. They appointed black men. In fact there was a fellow who was a sergeant on midnights [detail] and we had several around.

They were having a late night session and the lieutenant in charge didn't have too many men, so he stationed a black officer in the Senate gallery. Well! Joe Duke

went by the gallery for some reason. He didn't go up there often, but he happened to go by at 10:30 or 11:00 o'clock. And there was this black officer.

BAKER: Inside the chamber?

BALLARD: No. We had nobody inside the chamber in those days. Well, we started putting men inside the galleries--plain clothesmen--not too many years ago.

BAKER: You never had a uniformed man inside the gallery?

BALLARD: Oh, no. He wasn't allowed. Even today. No gun is allowed in there. It doesn't make any difference who it is.

BAKER: Do plain clothesmen have weapons.

BALLARD: Special . . . Yeah, they have 'em. Even military police with a weapon can't go in there. They can leave their weapon out there with some officer, plain clothesman. Now, they've always wanted to allow a Secret Service man, who's assigned to the vice

page 155

president, to sit up in the Diplomatic Gallery. But to my knowledge, they have never let him in there. At least not as long as I was over there.

BAKER: Is that a problem of jurisdiction, primarily?

BALLARD: Yes. Now, we would have gone along with it, but it was the powers that be. The Sergeant at Arms and the leadership. They wanted nobody sitting opposite that presiding officer with a weapon. Duke came through there and saw this colored officer. He called the lieutenant. "Get that fella out of this gallery." Of course, the lieutenant made the change and didn't put him up there any more. There was nothing wrong with the officer except that he was black.

BAKER: So they kept him on the House side?

BALLARD: That's right! That's right.

Now when Bob Byrd came over from the House [1959], he was a congressman who had been elected senator. Now I was in the Capitol and a young fella named Perry Woofert came up from Charleston. He was going to be Byrd's AA [administrative assistant]. Byrd had a woman AA in the House. He came to the Senate office building to hunt me, because he had been told . . . Now, I had relative in Charleston--relatives in the [state] government. In fact, I had a cousin who was

a member of the house of delegates for many years. Perry was a young lawyer involved in politics down there. Some of them told him when he got to Washington to look me up, because "he's been there and he knows his way around." Well, Perry came up to the Senate Door and called me. I met him over at the office building. He told me what he was going to do. He was going to be Byrd's AA. So, I took him around and introduced him to Dick Menefee in old man [Harry] Byrd's [Sr.] office. Jack Spain in [Clyde] Hoey's office. Several of the established AAs. Because I knew they could do him an awful lot of good. Well, Perry came over to the cloakroom one day to see me and he said, "We have pressure on us to appoint a young colored fella, a student, to the police force. I've never seen any around here and I was just wondering what . . . And I said, "Well, Perry, we don't have any."

BAKER: As late as 1959?

BALLARD: That's right. I said, "We don't have any on the Senate rolls. Now they have them on the House roll. But they tell me it actually goes back to Bilbo. Bilbo notified that he wanted none. And he didn't get 'em." And I said, "I don't know. Mr. Duke . . . whether he's afraid of the Southern leadership . . . but we just don't have them." I said, "Don't notify him to come up here yet. Get the senator to go to Joe Duke." I said, "Now don't

you go, because he's not going to see you. There's only about three AAs he'll see. And you're new. You get the senator to go to Duke and talk with him about the problem. And if he says, 'Bring him up,' then bring him up. But if he tells the senator not to, don't do it, because you'll end up with a part time elevator patronage. That's all you'll get." I said, "Play his game, because he's got a deck of cards over there that's rough." He said okay. Now, the day of Kennedy's inauguration [January 20, 1961], I was standing at the Senate Door there with a lieutenant. Byrd and Perry Woofert came down the back stairs--you know, where the men's toilet is there on the second floor near the Secretary's Office. They called me over. They said, "We just came from Duke's office and he said to go ahead and bring the boy up." Byrd thanked me for the advice I gave him. About three weeks later I went into our office and the supply sergeant called me back and said, "I've got a fella here from West Virginia." I walked in there. He was a light, colored fella. And I said, "Well, by God. Haven't I seen you around Stotesbury at some time?" I'd never been to Stotesbury! He said, "Well, I don't remember you, but that's where I'm from." I said, "That's what I thought." And that was the first black.

BAKER: So the first black member of the Senate detail of the Capitol Police Force arrived in 1961?

BALLARD: That's when the first one got here. That broke the barrier.

BAKER: Were there any problems that you were aware of as a result of black men coming on the force?

BALLARD: No. None. You had problems with some of them as individuals. Now, Bob Byrd appointed one I had problems with. In fact, I was acting chief [in 1964]. I went right to Byrd, because I knew Byrd. I went right to him. I went to the floor and called him off of the floor in the cloakroom and told him. He said, "Now you handle it. If you think that he is not the proper person, get rid of him. Votes don't mean that much to me." I said, "All right. Don't see him if he comes to your office." And he said he wouldn't. So I called the boy in and dismissed him from the force. He did go to Byrd's office after that, but Byrd was true to his word and wouldn't see him. So he went back to Charleston and it was the last we ever heard of him.

BAKER: So Robert Byrd has the distinction of being the first senator to bring a black man to the police department.

BALLARD: He was. I can't think of the fella's name, because we've had so many of them. He was a ministerial student. Byrd had a

habit of bringing blacks. The press painted him with the Ku Klux Klan robe and I think he wanted to show them that he wasn't that type.

BAKER: He told me one time that he had intended to vote to confirm Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court and then he got to thinking, "If this man were white, would I vote for him based on his record?" And then he said, "No, I wouldn't," and he didn't.

BALLARD: I think Byrd is a conscientious person. [Deletion] I used to take a lot of people through the building for Byrd.

BAKER: Thinking about some of those Southern senators . . . the tremendous power that they had . . .

BALLARD: That was power. Now take Dick Russell. You could tell when something of importance was coming up on the Senate floor. It may drone along for hours, but when you saw Dick Russell move up into the [presiding officer's] chair, watch out. And sure enough. I remember they brought some bill over from the House. It had to do with the South. Sam Rayburn couldn't stop it. It was one of those things that went right over his head. Some of the Senate liberals wanted to bring it to the floor immediately.

BAKER: To keep it from being bottled up in committee.

page 160

BALLARD: Right. But somebody tipped off Russell it was coming. He got in the chair immediately to put it in committee and that did away with it.

Senator [Walter] George. I don't think many people knew him. He kept to himself. He was chairman of Foreign Relations [1955-57]. And one of the things they accused him of was the he knew more about China than he did about Georgia. That hurt him.

BAKER: He'd been around the Senate a long time, since 1922.

BALLARD: Tom Connally of Texas. He was chairman of Foreign Relations, also [1941-47; 1949-53]. He was a character. He was a typical caricature of a senator. Like Frank Boykin of the House. They looked like their position. You'd be walking down F Street with 400 people and if Connally was walking down that street and someone said, "Point out a senator" well, you'd point out Tom Connally. He wore dark suits, white tie, black flowing necktie, black hat, and flowing white hair. Had all the appearance of a senator. After he left the Senate . . . he married [former Senator] Morris Sheppard's widow. Didn't have a dime, he didn't. But she had half of Texas.

After he left the Senate, he still came up for his haircut and shave every morning. Chauffeur-driven car. One day he came up and the barber was gone. So he went on over to the House side. Smitty, the House barber, he wouldn't shave his brother free. He was buying

page 161

a plantation down in Mississippi and he was looking out for every cent that came by the line. Old man Connally got in the chair and got the works and got up and started to leave and didn't lay anything on the counter. Smitty said, "Don't you think you forgot something, senator?" "No, I've got my glasses." He said, "You forgot to pay me." Connally said, "You know, I'm Senator Connally. I don't pay." Smitty said, "You got in the wrong barbershop this morning. You pay over here, senator!" And he paid him.

BAKER: They didn't pay on the Senate side?

BALLARD: Oh, no. There was no charge. They had those shaving mugs. Of course, they've done away with that. Drew Pearson did "Behind the Scenes in Congress." And he did a show and I was assigned to him, you know what I mean? To be sure that he got what he wanted and he didn't get what he wanted. And he wanted those shaving mugs, but Duke wouldn't let him have 'em.

National Geographic did for the Aluminum Corporation a feature on the Capitol and George Mobley was the head cameraman. He wanted those mugs. I finished up with him one day, and he said, "We've wrapped it up, all but the mugs. We'll do that in the morning." I said, "George, if you are waiting on the mugs, you've

wrapped it up." He said, "Oh, no, no, no, they are clearing it with Mr. Hayden." I said, "Well, okay, partner, I'll see you there in the morning." I met George at the door. No *mugs*!! (Laughter) I said, "I told you."

page 162

BAKER: Why?

BALLARD: I don't know why. There was a beautiful cabinet and it would have made a beautiful picture.

BAKER: What did the mugs have on them?

BALLARD: The name of the senator.

BAKER: Was it the full name or the first name?

BALLARD: It was the full name in beautiful old English script. As soon as they got elected, the mug was made.

BAKER: Who presented the mugs?

BALLARD: Apparently the Sergeant at Arms, I don't know. Or whether it was just placed in the barbershop.

BAKER: Every member of the Senate had one?

BALLARD: That's right. In that cabinet. And he was allowed to take it with him when he left. There was dignity then. Not now. It's like a McDonald's. It used to be a Delmonico. Now it's a McDonald's. So much of that 's gone. The dignity of the Senate is gone.

BAKER: Why, do you think?

page 163

BALLARD: I don't know. They used to have a certain dress--it wasn't a requirement. Clyde Hoey, as long as he was here, he had his morning dress. When he was on the floor, you could tell who he was.

BAKER: Were there any incidents on the floor that you recall as a result of unconventional dress?

BALLARD: No. George Aiken changed the pattern and he had seniority. Nobody said anything to him. Everybody knew that he was George Aiken.

BAKER: What if a freshman senator tried to get away with out of the ordinary attire?

BALLARD: He would have been snubbed. It is like Hubert Humphrey's first speech [in 1949]. What did they do to him? They completely erased him. He got up and started to berate Byrd of Virginia. Well, Byrd of Virginia wasn't the most popular man in there, but they looked at it this way, "If he does that to him, what's he going to do to us?" It ended up that there was only one other person in the chamber and that was the presiding officer. And he couldn't leave. You could tell, they were just drifting out. And he was in disgrace until LBJ rescued him. LBJ found out that he could use him.

BAKER: When did the rescue take place? When Johnson became Democratic leader in 1953?

page 164

BALLARD: Yes. He used him.

BAKER: As a tie-in to the liberal wing of the Democratic party?

BALLARD: That's all in the world he used him for, but he took him up. Now, I'll never forgive Humphrey for cleaning out the vice president's office in the Capitol. I liked those things of history. We had in there the McKinley desk that Woodrow Wilson used. McKinley had used it [at the White House]. When he was assassinated [in 1901] they stored it down in the basement of the White House. Well, Wilson was down there one day rummaging around and he saw it and he liked it. He brought it up and used it his two terms of office. They didn't want to put it back in the basement, so they brought it up and put it in the vice president's office. And they had the sofa that Vice President Henry Wilson died on in there [1875]. The only things in that room were of historical value. And I liked it. Of course, they had the chandelier that Teddy Roosevelt sent up there. I was on leave. In those days, you couldn't take leave except when the Senate went out. I usually took mine in December, because they were out. I went back up about the middle of January [1965] when Hubie had taken over [as vice president]. I went in the vice president's office and I was shocked. Nothing in there but new desks, a working staff, a girl in there

page 165

BAKER: In the formal office?

BALLARD: In the formal office! Now that didn't last long. Now, the sofa was gone. The McKinley desk had gone back to the White House--Nixon took that [in 1969, and it was returned in 1977].

BAKER: There's always been some confusion about that desk.

BALLARD: Everything was gone. There was nothing in there but modern desks, typewriters. A working office. It didn't last long. They wouldn't let Humphrey use it as a working office, because too many senators wanted to use that for visiting.

BAKER: So they moved the staff out of there, but kept the new furniture there for the four years he was vice president?

BALLARD: Yes, but honestly, I was shocked.

BAKER: So when Nixon and Agnew came in, did they move back the old furniture?

BALLARD: No, no. It didn't come back at that point.

BAKER: Well, that new class of 1948, Humphrey's freshman class, it was considered a remarkable class. It had people like Paul Douglas, and Humphrey, and Russell Long, and Clinton Anderson, and Robert Kerr, and Lyndon Johnson . . . That must have seemed like a new breed.

page 166

BALLARD: It was a new breed. Now, Kerr was a package by himself. He turned into being the most powerful senator on the floor, regardless of the leadership. He wasn't in the leadership, but he led the Senate. He worked 'em over to just what he wanted.

BAKER: What were his characteristics that made that possible?

BALLARD: He had money. He had always been, you wouldn't say a bully, but he was a bully in a way. He knew how to work the floor and the first person he got in his pocket was Bobby Baker. Now Bobby Baker was working for LBJ, but Kerr knew how to operate him. If he wanted to know what was going on, he went to Bobby Baker. You have to give Bobby Baker credit. Bobby Baker knew what was going on on that floor. He knew what legislation was coming up and he knew what was going to happen to it. Now LBJ used him for that. "Do you think we ought to continue, or do you think we ought to drop it, Bobby?" Bobby'd tell him to drop it. He didn't lose a battle, but he didn't win a lot of wars. Kerr used Bobby Baker. I don't know about that. But I knew how Kerr controlled the Senate. Now, I have to laugh about a little incident concerning Kerr. I had a man working the Senate steps out there, which was an important post, because you deal with senators. And you have to be sure that senators park. Now there's space against the steps, but that doesn't mean anything. If they come up in a car, they get out of the car and say, "Park it," and you park it. Well, I had a fella out there that

page 167

was a jewel. He knew every one of them, knew how to handle them. I walked out there one morning. It was the day after Oklahoma had voted wet [to end prohibition]. Ralph Scalzo, the boy's name, he enjoyed a drink of booze--immensely. That was his business, because it never interfered with his work. I walked out there that morning and Ralph said, "I can't wait until Senator Kerr comes up so I can congratulate him on Oklahoma." And I said, "Ralph, hold it fella. He donated \$65,000 to the WCTU [Woman's Christian Temperance Union]

last year." "What! " I said, "Yes." A few minutes later, Kerr approached in his car with his big black Routweiller dog that he always carried with him. Of course, Ralph wasn't going to miss an opportunity. So he walked over to Senator Kerr after he parked and got out of the car. He said, "Well, senator, too bad about Oklahoma yesterday!" (Laughter) Kerr took off that big cowboy hat and put it over his heart, bowed his head, "Yes, Ralph, the blackest day in Oklahoma history!" Walked in the building and Ralph said, "Jesus, I'm certainly glad you came out here this morning. I would have been ruined." (Laughter) But he made his points with Senator Kerr.

BAKER: He sure did.

BALLARD: Kerr had his own plane. Before he would go to Oklahoma, he had a standing order for sixteen apple pies from the Senate bakery. He took sixteen pies with him every trip. Now, we had a baker then, who was a master. He had a drinking problem and he

page 168

would pass out frequently, but he made the best pastries, coffee cakes, pies. When Harry Byrd took over as chairman of the Rules Committee, he fired him on account of his drinking.

BAKER: He didn't use the right kind of apples.

BALLARD: That's right. I think he went over to the Pentagon's bake shop.

BAKER: That must have been a source of frustration for Kerr to know that Byrd had fired his baker.

BALLARD: It was. Everybody hated it. We didn't care if he did drink. He had the best pastries . . . rum buns and coffee cake. Honestly, his coffee cake, I've never seen anything like it.

BAKER: But nobody was going to challenge Byrd on that score.

BALLARD: Oh, no. Chairman of the Rules Committee, you know. But that's the way the cookie crumbled.

BAKER: You probably haven't seen too many quite like Robert Kerr.

BALLARD: The only one I've ever seen like him. He took over the Senate and you don't see too many characters like that. Walked in and in two days, took over the Senate.

page 169

BAKER: I've always been curious about his relationship with Lyndon Johnson. Particularly when Johnson was the Democratic leader [1953-61] of the Senate.

BALLARD: Well, of course, Lyndon Johnson wasn't about to get in the way of anything that helped him. And that Oklahoma money helped Lyndon. Lyndon, of course, was still the leader in every way as far as the public was concerned. He was the leader because he knew that when he had something going for him, he didn't stop it. And he had Kerr going for him.

When Kerr died [January 1, 1963], we had sixty-five members to go back there for the funeral. And sixty-five showed up. Which was unusual. Somebody said something to me about it and I said, "Yeah, they wanted to be sure it was Kerr in that casket." That's the reason they went.

BAKER: He wasn't very popular.

BALLARD: No. A man like that is not popular. They go along with him, but he won't win a popularity contest. He manipulated a lot of that through Bobby Baker. Bobby Baker was a master of that. It's a shame that he got into the trouble that he got into.

page 170

BAKER: It is interesting to consider that he got into that trouble shortly after Kerr died, within weeks almost. What do you make of that?

BALLARD: Well, I think they were sitting and waiting on him. But they couldn't touch him as long as Kerr was alive.

BAKER: So you'd agree that Baker was Kerr's man and not LBJ's.

BALLARD: Right. He was Kerr 's man. You'd go down in Bobby's office, it was called [Room] P-80 in those days. And on his desk were stacks of money. On his desk. Drawers full of money.

BAKER: Just out in open view?

BALLARD: Yes. Now, I used to go in his office there and loaf. It was a good place to loaf. The lieutenant was from South Carolina and a good friend of Bobby's. He and I would go down there and loaf. LBJ would come down and go behind the screen. The booze was behind the screen. LBJ'd come down and fix himself up a hooker [drink] or two. Bobby'd go back and talk . . . pay no attention to us. That's one thing about a policeman. You can hear a lot of things, because nobody pays a lot of attention. They'll talk right before you, because, "He doesn't know a damn thing, or he wouldn't be a policeman."

page 171

Go in the Senate toilet and get in a stall. You'd be surprised what you'll hear. Senators will come down. They use that. They'll stand in there, if there's no one else in there, and they'll give away all kinds of secrets. All you have to do is sit in

there and listen. It is the best listening post in town. They never think that someone may be sitting in there listening.

BAKER: That may be why the senators have a private toilet off the chamber.

BALLARD: That's right. Old Senator Kerr Scott of North Carolina, I don't know how many times I've taken him down there. He never could find it. He'd come out of the Senators' Dining Room and I'd take him down.

Cranston. It took Cranston months to find the Senators' Dining Room. I don't know how many times I found him on the second floor. I knew what he was hunting, but you had to approach them carefully. I'd tell him, "You're on the wrong floor, senator. Come around here and go down the stairway."

BAKER: Speaking of dining rooms, the senators have their own private dining rooms on the other side of the formal Senators' Dining Room.

page 172

BALLARD: That's right. The Republicans and the Democrats have their own. And there's nobody allowed in there except members. The public goes into the senators' formal dining room [under certain conditions].

BAKER: I suppose there is an informal set of rules that governs those two dining rooms. Democrats don't sit at the Republican table.

BALLARD: That's right. There are two different sections. Speaking of dining rooms, one of the oldest political 'gimmicks is the "Nebraska Breakfast." That's the oldest political gimmick on the Hill, and the most successful.

BAKER: Why is it a gimmick? Tell me about the background of that.

BALLARD: Well, it has been going on for many, many years. It is held every Tuesday in the Family Dining Room [in the Capitol]. Now, when Nebraska senators and congressmen write letters to constituents back there, they put a line on the bottom, as a rule, "The Nebraska congressional delegation has a breakfast every Tuesday morning in the Family Dining Room of the United States Capitol. If you are in town, you are cordially invited to come to breakfast with us." Now, you'd be surprised how many people come up to us and say, "Where is the Nebraska Breakfast?" And as a courtesy, we park the people up

page 173

there. We know they are not going to be there long. They're tourists or they have got business. They pay their own way. It is not free.

BAKER: Do they have to make reservations ahead of time?

BALLARD: No. You can just walk in. Sometimes, they'll have some kind of convention and they'll have to use another dining room. One of the members will take them on a short tour. A senator will take them up on the Senate floor. House members will take them on the House floor. Now, I went back to Nebraska, my wife's from Kansas. We were over in McCook, Nebraska. We went to lunch at a nice restaurant there and the people I was with took me back and introduced me to the owner of the restaurant. And he said, "Oh, I'll tell you, did you know I had breakfast there with my senator one day. Any person who goes from McCook, I always tell them to go to the Capitol on Tuesday morning for breakfast." The people are impressed with it.

BAKER: That's been going on as long as you've been here.

BALLARD: Oh, it was going on long before I came here. It's a gimmick and it doesn't cost the member a penny! Except for their own breakfast.

BAKER: And it probably has a lot to do with how successful Nebraska members are when it comes to reelection.

page 174

BALLARD: They stay and stay.

BAKER: Do you know of any other state delegation that does anything like that?

BALLARD: No sir, there's none. The members of the delegations have luncheons, but none that is open to the public like that. That's a dandy.

BAKER: You were talking earlier about the shaving mugs and how those are off limits to the press and the public. We have also discussed the senators' private dining room and how that is off limits. Are there other places that the Capitol Police have been particularly alert to keep the press and public away from?

BALLARD: One thing you should keep in mind is the hideaway offices. You don't tell any person. Now, you know that a specific room is a senator's hideaway, because you see him going in there, but you don't tell anybody that, particularly the press. I was in the captain's office--it was payday--and I came up to the Senate Disbursing Office to get my pay envelope one morning at 9:00 o'clock. I had my pay envelope in my hand and I was going back to the elevator and I met an Oriental in the corridor. I asked him if I could help him, because he was lost. He said, "Yes, I am looking for Vice President Nixon's office." And I said, "Well, you are in the wrong building. His office is in 360 in the Senate Office Building." He

page 175

said, "No. That may be, but I have an appointment to have breakfast with him in his office in the Capitol, but I have forgotten the room number." Well, I knew that he had it then, because they did have breakfasts in there. I said, "Well, in that

case, I think I can help you. Come on and go down the corridor with me." Room 236 was Nixon's hideaway. Well, I knocked on the door and Major Hughes, who was Nixon's AA, opened the door. I said, "I have a man hunting breakfast." He said, "Yes, we've been expecting him." Nixon was standing there. Of course, I knew Nixon real well. I still like Nixon. I don't care what happened /with Watergate/. That's something else. But he always was very friendly. He said, "Come in, since you would probably enjoy meeting this man." So he introduced me to him. He said, "He is now a Baptist minister in California, but he is the captain who led the raid on Pearl Harbor." Well. Sure enough.

He died about three years ago. Now, I'm not an autograph hunter. I have only had about three since I've been on Capitol Hill. But, I thought to myself, "Get this one." I said to him, "Would you mind giving me your autograph?" He wrote his name in English and he wrote it in Japanese. And down at the bottom, he wrote, "Luke 2:23." I took it home and looked it up and it is "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do."

page 176

Now the other fellow that I collected an autograph from was also hunting Nixon's office. That was Prince Romanoff, the famous restaurateur. The famous phoney. He was a Brooklyn kid. He threw himself at the right kind of people and he ended up in Hollywood and they set him up in a restaurant. Prince Romanoff's Restaurant famous for Strawberries Romanoff. Well, I was standing up there one morning on the Senate side of the Capitol, second floor, next to the senators' elevator. And this fella came around hunting Nixon's office. I told him he was in the wrong building. He said, "The cab driver put me out here. He said I would find it in this building." I said, "Well that happens often," and it does. I looked him over and said, "Aren't you Prince Romanoff?" And he said, "Have you met me before?" And I said, "No, but you do look like him." He was a dapper little character. Jesus. He had on a moleskin vest and the whole bundle. He said, "I'm glad you recognized me, 'cause I have an appointment over in Nixon's office." He opened up his briefcase and took out an alligator card case, and took out a card, and put his name on the back. He said, "If you are ever in California, come to my restaurant and present this . . ." I said, "Well, I appreciate that. I'll probably never get that far." I've never been out there. Of course, he's dead now. I thought to myself, the Hill is loaded with phoneys. But here is the fella who made phoney a business. And was successful.

page 177

And then I collected one from Alfred Hitchcock for my boy who is a movie fan all the way. Hitchcock had an unusual autograph. His autograph is his profile. He was up there with Nixon one day. I never fool with autographs. I could have had a million. It never was my bit.

BAKER: Talking about hideaway offices, you said you would never point one out to the press or public. What about to another senator?

BALLARD: No. You don't know what he's wanting. You might say you saw him going down the corridor a while ago. The senator will say, "Well, if he'll show somebody that one, he'll show mine." So you just don't. That's his little kingdom.

BAKER: Well, it gets back to what you have said throughout this series of interviews of how important it is to have a political sense up here. A sense of discretion . . .

BALLARD: That's right. It's the answer. I think it is how I got along. I stayed here through I don't know how many changes of administration. I was the only one who stayed. They left. I'd stand roll call. I'd be the only person there [on several occasions] who was there yesterday. Nobody ever bothered with me. But I will say that Joe Duke helped me a lot. He was a stickler. He wanted things perfect, and I tried to give them to him. As far as I was

page 178

concerned, that's what he wants, that's what he's going to get. He had somebody who would do it so he held on to me.

BAKER: I get the impression that he was an incredibly effective Sergeant at Arms. And a very efficient Senate staff person.

BALLARD: He was. He didn't hob nob with the staff. AA's weren't his bag at all.

BAKER: You mentioned earlier that there were only three AA's that he dealt with. Who were they?

BALLARD: Well, Petesy Menafee was one. Of course, that was [Harry] Byrd's man. And [Roy] Elson, who was [Carl] Hayden's. I don't know whether there were any others.

BAKER: You mentioned [deleted].

BALLARD: No. He wasn't one of Duke's favorites. [Deleted] was an operator. He was into the money end of it. He had connections with housing projects out here and he had a car dealership in North Carolina and he operated through used cars. There was no way you were going to get any taint on Joe Duke. He wouldn't have anything to do with anyone he thought might embarrass him. [Deleted] was an operator. He ended up . . . he never enjoyed it. Maybe he enjoyed accumulating it. I don't know.

page 179

BAKER: Well, it must be a tremendously difficult task to be an effective administrative assistant.

BALLARD: Oh, of course it is. You are the show. You have to keep the constituents happy. How many constituents see a senator? Not many. It is the

AA. And he has a staff to deal with. The staff is the answer to the constituency. They can ruin you. Senator William Benton of Connecticut. His staff was terrible. You could tell that he wasn't going to be here long. Especially over in the office buildings. You can tell. Visitors will come out of the office and ask where the other senator is. He can't stay long. The word gets back. Like LBJ. He wouldn't appoint a patronage employee from Texas. He was afraid he'd go back and bad-mouth him.

BAKER: Well, this might be a good place to stop for today.

BALLARD: Well, again, I always enjoy it. I like to reminisce, you know. Of course, the Senate's been my life. I have enjoyed every day of it. And the history, because I liked history in school. I was right in the middle of it when I hit that Senate.

BAKER: And you knew it.

BALLARD: What I didn't know, I tried to learn.

BAKER: But, you appreciated the fact that you were right in the middle.

page 180

BALLARD: That's right. I wanted to give the visitors the right answer. I used to tell the men. If you don't know the answer, admit it and find it for them. Don't give them the wrong answer, because they are entitled to know. I tried to do that myself. If I didn't know it, I'd find it out. Oh, it was right up my alley, this Capitol Building.

BAKER: You could be here for many years and still learn something new.

BALLARD: Every day. If you tried. I did, every day. Of course, the Capitol's changed and you had to change with it. The old Supreme Court room and downstairs in the original Senate chamber. Boy, that's a remarkable piece of history.

BAKER: You must have been very pleased when they decided to restore those rooms.

BALLARD: I was. All of our history, the main part of our history is made up there in that old Supreme Court room. The Civil War started there, actually.

BAKER: Okay, let's adjourn.

[End of Interview #6]

page 181

Leonard Ballard

Inspector, United States Capitol Police (1947-1984)

Interview #7

(Thursday, October 20, 1983)
Interviewed by Richard A. Baker

BAKER: I'd like to begin by asking you about the problems that public demonstrations on Capitol Hill create for the police. I know you have been involved with planning for them.

BALLARD: Well, there's not much planning you can do for a demonstration. Of course, you have men equipped with riot gear. We've had to use it once or twice. You know you get a trigger happy policemen in every crowd. On one occasion, we were on the West Front and he released some gas.

BAKER: What kind of gas?

BALLARD: Oh, I don't know, it isn't nerve gas, but it is close.

BAKER: Like tear gas?

BALLARD: Yes. It has an effect. Of course, it caught the chief (Laughter). It caught the representative of the FBI. They were affected more than the demonstrators. Well, we started curtailing the use of gas then. The demonstrations themselves are hard to handle up here for the simple reason that you have members of Congress involved. You have to be very careful what you do because there's the member standing right there.

page 182

(Discussion of a Demonstration)

BAKER: Did they have a permit?

BALLARD: No. You don't need a permit. A member can bring any group he wants out onto those steps. That's his bailiwick. He can bring a band out there and start playing, if the member's with them. That's just a custom. If they are on their own turf, don't bother them.

BAKER: They don't need to make reservations or anything.

page 183

BALLARD: Nothing. If they come up there with a group and there's a group already there, then you have to say, "Congressman, just hold your group over here until he finishes." There are times in the summer when you do have a holding pattern.

dealings with members. As they are on their own baliwick, don't bother them. It doesn't make any difference what they are doing. You can always cover that. Or you can walk away. That's a good idea. I've walked away many times. I had trouble with [Representative] (deleted). He was out there at a demonstration and he pulled a girl--she was just a tourist--he pulled her off a car pretty roughly. And I told him, "You do that again, and I'll lock you up." He says, "You can't lock me up. I'm a member of Congress." I said, "Yes, I can. I can lock you up for breach of the peace."

BAKER: Just like anyone else.

BALLARD: That's right. That's one thing you can lock them up for right in the House. A breach of the peace. I said, "One more time." Well, the next Wednesday . . . they had demonstrations every Wednesday in those days on the center steps [of the Capitol's West Front]. Well, the next Wednesday, I got a call back to the chief's office that Mr. Dunphy, the [Senate] Sergeant at Arms, didn't want me to lock up the congressman. He said the congressman called him that morning and asked him to interfere. He said that I'd threatened to lock him up. I said, "Well, Mr. Dunphy's my boss." Well, we gathered out on the steps as usual. The press was there. The congressman was there. I was there. And, of course, to make his point, he said to me, "You are not going to lock me up today, are you?"

Before the press, you know?" And I said, "Well, I doubt it." But, I had to bite my tongue to keep from saying, "If you hadn't interfered through my boss, I probably would have." (Laughter) But I couldn't say that [before the press]. It turned out later that we got to be good friends. I was over at the House side one day and he came out of the chamber and he saw me--that was long after the demonstrations--and he came over. It was a new session of Congress and he was glad to see me back. We visited and every time he would see me, he'd stop and make a point . . .

BAKER: "You're not going to lock me up today!"

BALLARD: That's right. (Laughter) We do make too much of a show out of demonstrations. We call too many people [police] for a little job. We'll have a demonstration on the West Front and we'll know that they are not going to create any disturbance, but we'll bring out three or four hundred men, which . . . That is we'll have them on duty. We don't have them showing outdoors. Now, when the farmers were here, that cost the taxpayers millions of dollars. What were you going to do. Sit down there in a [police] bus and watch the farmers! Because they weren't going to do anything. And Metropolitan had 'em circled. They couldn't get out. We still had men in the guard rooms, in the locker rooms standing by. It is just a waste of time and money.

Now, we used to have a couple of fellas who promoted demonstrations. One of them was called "the Mole." We nicknamed him the Mole. When he'd bring demonstrations up, you could tell what kind of a group he had out there. He would organize anything. If he came up in a overall jacket, you might have some trouble with him. But if he came up in a suit of clothes, a necktie and the whole business, he was going to have senior citizens. He always gave himself away by his dress. Now, he was the son of a doctor in upstate New York. They kept him here in Washington. They kept him away from home. He spent his time organizing groups. All you had to do was call the Mole and say, "I'd like to have one hundred students." Mole would get you a hundred students and demonstrate with them. Then he had a buddy, we called him "Tiny Tim." He walked on crutches. Now, when you saw Tiny Tim and the Mole casing the Capitol Building--watch out! You were going to have a demonstration. We were down there on the West Front once. Now this was a mob. They had about 16,000 who walked up by the Grant monument. Well, the Mole had on a suit of clothes, so we didn't do a thing but retreat right up to the Capitol, because we knew there wasn't going to be any fight.

BAKER: So your strategy was based on how the Mole was dressed.

BALLARD: How the Mole was dressed. So we knew there would be no trouble, so we retreated up to the Capitol, the doors were open,

we got in there, and we talked to him through the door. And finally, he decided to take his group and go. He's made his point; they've made their point. They got their pictures. We knew they were not going to burn the Capitol. Back several years ago, before we had a lot of men, we'd have a demonstration on the Front. And I would always exaggerate the number of people for the simple reason it made us look good. The press would always come by and ask, "What kind of a crowd do you have?" Well, this is where you let 'em have it. One time we had maybe 1,500 or 2,000. I went home and was talking to the wife and she said, "What kind of crowd did you have?" And I said, "Well, not a whole lot, but the *Washington Post* in the morning will say 5,000." So sure enough, the next morning the *Post* said 5,000. I told her we'd be in a devil of a fix if these newsmen ever decided they could estimate crowds.

BAKER: Does that still go on today?

BALLARD: Oh, yes. Sure it does.

BAKER: By Metropolitan as well?

BALLARD: All police forces do it. It makes them look good. And if they have spent some extra money, they can answer for the money.

BAKER: In addition to the Mole and people like that as sources of advance intelligence, or intelligence on the spot, what other sources of information did you have in preparing for a demonstration? Did you get FBI reports?

BALLARD: Oh, yes. You get FBI, you get Secret Service, and then you have members of the party who expect to demonstrate. They'll comment. Now, they have a habit of exaggeration. We have a group in the basement down here. They handle all of those things. Crowd estimate, demonstrations, they'll take the information. They have a habit of believing these people. And I'm always down there after them. What I used to do, let's say a captain would come to me with the information, "We've got 500 buses coming out of New York. Well, it doesn't take you long to call the FBI. They have contacts in New York. They'll call you back and say "They may have 500, but there's only 100 released." Well, you knock off 400 right there, because the bus companies learned the hard way to have the money in advance before the bus pulls out. At one time, they'd get stuck, especially the small companies. Then they put in a policy, "Money on the barrelhead before the bus moves." Then the bus will stay in Washington only so long. It won't wait. They are notified, "We pull out at 5:00 o'clock. If you are on it, okay, but we'll go back." You have to sift the information. You have to develop your own sources of information. You can't depend on what these people come in and tell you all the time. 'Cause they have a way of exaggeration.

We had the gays here about three or four weeks ago. Well, the estimate the boys in the basement got was 20,000. Well, I was working that weekend and I asked, "What are you basing it on?" "That's their figure." I said, "Well, how many out-of-town buses?" "Well, two in Philadelphia," you know? And I said, "You are going to have a time getting 20,000 people on those two buses." So it ended up that there were about 500.

When I first came here though, demonstrations didn't faze Captain Caveness. I don't know why. In those days, we kept the office open from 9:00 to 5:00. Now, regardless of what demonstration was going on, at 5:00 o'clock the office closed! We went home! (Laughter) He said, "What can you do with them? There's a member in the crowd of every one of them and I am not going to fool with a member." And that's exactly the idea he had. Many years ago, transportation was by rail. That was it. Buses weren't used much. We had 3,000 Brooklyn shipyard workers come down here. Now, they were rough! Because they were going to close down the shipyard. I thought surely we were stuck. Five o'clock came, and the captain said, "What are you waiting on? Let's go home." We left 'em all over the front out there. Now the Saturday night that the Rosenbergs were electrocuted, we got word of a demonstration on Capitol Hill. I lived on Second Street then. I drove down in the car, on my own, to the East Front and parked. They were all over that Hill, all over that front of the Capitol and the steps and all. There wasn't one

policeman in sight. Not the first policeman. Of course, we only had one assigned to the East Front, but they'd apparently pulled him. They stayed up there until 9:30 or 10:00 p.m.

BAKER: Was there any evidence of any Metropolitan police? Off to the sides?

BALLARD: Oh, no. Nowhere near. In those days, Metropolitan wouldn't come up unless you invited them, and nobody invited them. They were afraid of legal tangles if they got involved. That was one captain that didn't believe in interfering with demonstrations!

We've gotten ourselves in trouble on several occasions. It is a bad policy because there's members involved. They arrested eleven the day before yesterday in a Pennsylvania senator's office for illegal entry. You take them downtown to the cell block. It is usually \$10.00. They are back on the street before you've got the first sheet of paper filled out. You see our men are working into the night filling out the forms.

BAKER: The real prisoners are your own men. The other prisoners are long gone.

BALLARD: That's right. I had an occasion one time where we had ten or twelve in Senator Everett Dirksen's office who wouldn't leave. In the Capitol in the minority leader's office. We locked them up late in the afternoon, after the building had closed. Then we could

charge them with unlawful entry. The very next morning, we all go to court and we get down to the corporation counsel's office, and we get a call that Dirksen is not going to press charges. So, "Goodbye you all."

BAKER: He controlled that place, so the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate can't press charges.

BALLARD: No. That's his office and he wasn't going to press charges, so there was nothing we could do. They were released and so were we.

BAKER: The whole question of permits to hold a demonstration. I'd like to know something about that.

BALLARD: Now, the permits are just a matter of form, that's all. They come down here and get a permit, but say some fella is in defiance. He 's got a group up there. No permit. Didn't bother to come down to the basement to get one. What do we do? We prepare one for him and take it up and give it to him.

BAKER: So there's no time requirement that they have to have a permit twenty-four hours in advance. Or anything like that?

BALLARD: No. We do warn them about transportation. No parking. That's all. You see, we've had a fella in court now for about four years and he whips us every time we turn around. A fella by the

page 192

name of Stacy. I've forgotten his last name [Abney]. He came up there and decided to demonstrate and then sleep at night up there. He's been in and out of court with us. We've locked him up, I don't know how many times, for no permit. We have to give him a permit. Civil liberties lawyers represent him. Frequently, you'll see a car up there at 2:00 o'clock in the morning, up on the Front. A couple of civil liberties lawyers sitting in there watching to see what we're doing.

BAKER: Is he the fella that is still up there who lives under that arch of the East Front steps?

BALLARD: That's right, that's Stacy. They even have a "Stacy law." They passed a law, but it didn't affect him. The judge threw it out.

BAKER: And what did it provide?

BALLARD: That "sleeping is demonstrating." But the judge threw it out because it was pointed directly at him and you can't make a law pointed at one person. Stacy's still there.

BAKER: He lives there--he uses the toilet facilities inside?

BALLARD: He has a beef against the Veterans Administration.

BAKER: But, he doesn't seem to demonstrate actively any more.

page 193

BALLARD: No, not any more. He just decided to stay here. There are a lot of demonstrations on the East Front steps. But they'll cooperate with you. You ask them to keep half the steps open. And they will do that. And handing out literature is limited, but most of them hand out what they want to.

BAKER: Limited in what sense?

BALLARD: As to size and content.

BAKER: Who reviews it?

BALLARD: The boys downstairs.

BAKER: But in practice, unless there's some obscenity or whatever, they don't fool with it?

BALLARD: No, no. If you do, you're going to get involved [in a civil liberties dispute]. Nowadays, you can't even censor four letter words. Courts won't let you. The courts are pretty liberal now.
(Portions Deleted)

page 194

(Portions Deleted)

But you see, this police department is an awful lot of politics. In fact, it is all politics.

BAKER: Has that situation changed over the years?

BALLARD: It is worse now than it was under the patronage system.

BAKER: Why?

BALLARD: Because everybody's trying to angle. When you had patronage, each man had his own man and went ahead about his business. That man controlled him to a certain extent. If he wanted him to run errands, he ran errands. But now, everybody is trying to play politics for their own advancement. And you can't do it now. That day is over.

page 195

The police force itself costs about \$32 million a year. If that figure was out in a municipality, they'd skin the council, the chief of police and everyone else. For 161 acres of land! And that's what we have here. But you can get by with it. You couldn't get by with that in patronage days, because they would say, "This is not a police force. This is made up of patronage employees that help us, and we help them. We don't want to hear anything about police business." And they didn't. That's how I grew up [in the force]. That's the reason I've never been a policeman. Now we have an elaborate training facility down in Georgia. They go down for eighteen weeks. The cost of that is [tremendous] . . . the expenses of the school, the transportation.

BAKER: Do other police forces in the Washington area use that training school [at Glynco, Georgia] as well?

BALLARD: Not in Washington. Secret Service used it some. Interior [Department] park rangers, but they only go two weeks! Ours go eighteen!

BAKER: Why?

BALLARD: Why? I've never been able to get that answer. (Laughter) And, after that, they come back up here to our training facility in what we call "Rayburn V in the Rayburn Building for four more weeks!

page 196

BAKER: That's before they ever hit the streets?

BALLARD: That's right.

BAKER: It's hard to believe.

BALLARD: It is. But, you see the chief can go before the powers that be and say, "Well, our officers have twenty weeks of training." And these people that he's talking to know nothing about [the day to day security operations on] the Hill, although they work here and got elected, but they know nothing about it and they think that's great. "Highly trained professional people!" And what do you need a highly trained professional person to stand out here on the street and be sure that the person parking has a permit for the space. And that's what it amounts to.

BAKER: Someone must keep track of the record of people who go down there for training and come back here. Some stay on the force and some leave. Does anyone evaluate why they leave and where they go? Do they use that training to get related jobs?

BALLARD: We lose very few people.

BAKER: You do? Is that a sign of the employment situation in general?

page 197

BALLARD: Yes. We have some that think that the grass is greener and they go. But, they come back shortly. And the boys in the locker room say, "I told you. This is Heaven."

BAKER: And it is pretty easy for them to get back on the force?

BALLARD: Well, unless they have a record. Here is 161 acres that closes down completely at dark. And yet, we have probably 300 men on duty. It's just a waste. All it is, actually, in my book, is a front--and a phoney front. And I can't see that. I just can't see that.

(Portions Deleted)

page 198

(Portions Deleted)

page 199

(Portions Deleted)

BAKER: Well, the Commission on the Operation of the Senate in 1976 had some very specific recommendations about the force. Basically, the recommendations were that the force was too large at almost 1,200 men, and that it ought to be reorganized. I gather that nothing ever came of those recommendations.

BALLARD: Of course not. You go along with it. "That's good, that's great." But just wait a few days and it will pass over.

BAKER: Just one other question about the demonstrations. Sometimes we see people out on the Capitol steps who are there day after day. A woman who has manikins, or statues of Christ and whatnot. Does she have to get a special permit every day?

BALLARD: No, not every day. She gets a permit and it can be for as long as she wants to stay there.

BAKER: And that allows her to play music and all that?

page 200

BALLARD: That's right. On the permit it will say "Can hand out literature." The memorandum that we get, the bulletin board notice, it will state that. "Literature, music, and so forth."

BAKER: So, the question of setting limits is up to the police board. If she wants to have huge loud speakers out there playing offensive music, or music that might be offensive . . .

BALLARD: Then, they can curtail that [on the grounds of] "interfering with Congress." And to my knowledge, we have never had any problem about that. If we had a problem about that, they'd take us into court so fast--because during the summertime hardly a day passes but that we don't have a high school band out there. And they are pretty loud. Now, the Civil Liberties Union came up there and taped a high school band. Now, they use that in court. We don't do it any more. We used to bring in the noise that they made on the front. We learned better than that, because Civil Liberties played a tape of the band. You know, you're fooling with smarter people than you are.

BAKER: Yeah. They've had a lot of experience at it.

BALLARD: They know their angles and, of course, we don't. That goes back to my idea of always playing it by ear.

BAKER: Well, you mentioned the 18-week training program in Georgia. Is there anything in that program that provides the new

members of the force with the kind of political sensitivity that you have and that you and I have been talking about during these interviews?

BALLARD: No, sir! They come back here and get assigned to a relief. And their first night on duty, they end up in the Senate subway in the old building leading to the Capitol on midnight. Now, if you don't have a disappointed soul there!

BAKER: Right.

BALLARD: And he is going to have that for a couple of weeks. Now, my idea has been, and will always be, "on the job training." That's the answer for the Capitol. Because you don't have business houses, but you have doors and committees and that sort of stuff. Take a man working with a man. He'll learn a lot more that way . . . They don't even have a class in answering the telephone! Now, I used to do that.

BAKER: That's important.

BALLARD: It's extremely important that you let the people know when they call who they are talking to, where you are, and who you are.

BAKER: Does that lead to disciplinary problems. You have a large force. Just on the face of it. Twelve hundred people. Somebody's going to get into trouble.

BALLARD: Of course it does! We have sort of a policy of smothering those disciplinary actions. We transfer the person around. On the book the man has to serve a year's probationary period. But, I don't know of a case where it was enforced. They transfer him around. "He's not fitting in here." You'll find out that if he doesn't fit in here, he won't fit in over there either. If he's going to foul up, he is going to foul up no matter where you send him. When I was in the Capitol Building, I'd try to get rid of them, but I found it was just like butting your head against the wall. I used to bring him over to the chief and say, "Here he is. Now you do anything you want with him, because I'm not taking him back." In a few days I'd get a form that he'd been transferred to another relief. Then, it won't be long before you'd see that he was transferred somewhere else. He's one of those that goes forever.

BAKER: A tourist on the force. Traveling around.

BALLARD: Right. I always had a reputation for being fairly strict. I was. You had to have discipline. That's the first thing you have to have in a police force or for any person who wears a uniform. They always said that I was fair, regardless of who it was.

If a man wanted to do a job, it was all right with me. If he didn't, I didn't want him. And I'd tell him so. "Put in for a transfer."

BAKER: And that person would know in advance that it was how you worked.

BALLARD: Well, like the boys used to say, when a new man was assigned to the Capitol detail, the older men would call him aside and tell him, "Don't try to screw up over here. The old man in there has pulled every trick in the book himself. He knows them all. He'll catch you and it will be rough on you." Now, I had a certain requirement in haircuts. They had to have a haircut and had to keep their hair trimmed. I didn't mean a Marine haircut, but a certain haircut. Harry Grevey, [a police clerk] brought a fella in one day with hair down to here. I said, "I don't want to meet him. Take him to the barber shop." I knew the barber and the barber knew me. The boy started to tell the barber how to cut his hair. The barber said, "Let me tell you something. You are going back down to Ballard and unless you want to pay for another haircut, you'd better let me cut your hair, because you are going to have to come back up here." That was one form of discipline. I kept my hair cut that way. Since I've been over here [in my current position] I don't. I let it grow down to my collar. Pay no attention to it. But, when I was over there, every week I had a haircut.

BAKER: Is there a sense that the Capitol detail has to be sharper than the others?

BALLARD: I always thought so, because you see more public over there than you do here in the office buildings. Of course, you see visitors in the office buildings that are going to the members' offices, but it is not like the Capitol Building where you are exposed to the public all the time. I was a stickler for courtesy, too. If I got a [negative] report, I'd go right into it. The people are entitled to a courteous answer. It may seem foolish to you, because you live here, but to them it is a question. And they are entitled to an answer. If I happen to be in the background and hear them give a bad answer, I wouldn't say anything, but I'd correct him later. They're paying your salary.

BAKER: But almost anyplace a man is stationed, he is likely to run into those kinds of challenges.

BALLARD: Yes. I always believed in working the same men in the same posts. Then they get to be familiar with who passes through there. It helps. It won't get you embarrassed. I had the same man in the press section all the time, so he would know the members of the press and the ones who you could get along with. We used to have one over there who worked for the *Denver Post*.

It was sprinkling rain and she was on the East Front. She wanted to park next to the Senate steps. Of course, the boy was directing her back to the press section, because she had a press sticker. She got out of the car and started crying. She put that bit on. And she was going to report him to Captain Ballard. Well, it frightened him [the officer] a little bit and he came down. He let her park. He got relieved and he came down and said, "I suppose I'm in trouble with you." He described the car and the woman. And I said, "Ooooh (Laughing), you're all right. You just ran into (deleted). She pulls that on all the new ones." He was new. "You're not in any trouble with me. That's a good way to handle it." That's her style. She always carried two shopping bags of clippings. And after the bomb went off [1971] in the Capitol we tightened up on the doors. We searched packages and so forth. The fellow on the Senate Door would go through the packages, the shopping bags full of clippings. He knew there was nothing in there. He knew (deleted). She would stand there, "Hurry up! I've got a deadline." I was talking to the old superintendent of the Press Gallery, Don Womack, one day. And he said, "Yep, that's her old story. The other day she was going down through the office here and passed the ladies toilet and there she was shaking the door, "Hurry up, Grace, I've got a deadline!" (Laughter)

BAKER: She's one of the Capitol's characters all right. I passed her in the old document room the other day. She had [then]

Captain Mike Morrison cornered and she was telling him this and that and "Can you get that for me from the chief 's office by 5:30." (Laughter) She was really doing a number on him. He was being very polite.

BALLARD: Oh, Mike. Mike would bend over backwards for her. He probably knows her!

BAKER: You mentioned the bombing in 1971. I wanted to talk to you about your involvement in that. That is one of the major events in the history of the Capitol Police, without question.

BALLARD: In fact, we got 400 men after that. Well, it went off about 1:30 in the morning, and it was set in that toilet, where there is a tile false front. And it was put behind that. There were very few people who even knew that toilet was there. They'd pass it every day. It was built for Mrs. Caraway, Senator Hattie Caraway [who came to the Senate in November 1931], the first woman elected to the Senate. The only other toilet facility was the senators' toilet up there adjacent to the Senate floor. But they put a little retiring room down there for her use.

BAKER: On the ground floor.

BALLARD: Very few people knew it was there. Now, I knew it was there because I used to sneak in there every morning and read my paper. I used to like to read my paper first thing in the morning

page 207

and the lieutenant never did find me. He left here not knowing it was there. What surprised me was how they found the room.

I read a book by a lieutenant who used to be on the force in New York. He wrote a book on bombing. They were having them up there hourly. In there, he said that the experts [in bombings] didn't want to destroy real property and they didn't want to cause casualties, because that brought too much heat on them. Well, these people must have read the book for the simple reason to let that go off at 1:30 in the morning, there might be one chance in ten million that an officer would be in that area, and then he would be walking by. But at 1:30 there are officers on the House and Senate doors, but nobody else. No building patrol. And then, the only thing they brought down was brick and mortar. Say they'd gone over to the Senate wing. The Brumidi paintings . . . never be replaced. It was all just a pattern. I think it was detonated from an automobile, probably on First Street.

BAKER: But someone would have had to have gotten in there before the building closed.

BALLARD: They had to. During the day. Let's say they got in there at 4:00 o'clock. Now they could leave after 4:00 o'clock and nobody would pay a bit of attention to them. As I say, the choice, the place, the time, everything worked out so professional. Now,

page 208

they arrested a woman on the west coast, but that was all. And that was because there was so much heat on the FBI. They had to grab someone.

BAKER: The Weather Underground claimed credit.

BALLARD: Yes. With Leslie Bacon. But I don't think they ever indicted her.

BAKER: That bombing brought in the FBI and Metropolitan?

BALLARD: Brought in the FBI. They took over the investigation. They took our door sheets, in and out, and were checking [the employees]. I said to them, "You can eliminate the employees. If it had been an employee, he'd have set it off in the dining room! (Laughter) Because they hate that dining room! Everybody complained about the food. They never did tell us the results of their investigation. They sealed it off. They gathered up what they called evidence . . . they were in there a month combing through the debris.

BAKER: And the Capitol Police had no role whatsoever in the investigation?

BALLARD: They wouldn't even let us in there and they never told us what they found.

BAKER: Was there any political pressure from the leadership of the House or Senate to bring you in?

page 209

BALLARD: No. Because we are not that professional, especially when the FBI steps in. We can't compete with the FBI, so we just stayed out. They told us to stay out.

BAKER: And that didn't bother you?

BALLARD: It didn't bother us a bit. We were glad to get rid of it. Of course, everybody wanted to get a brick. Ah, hell. A member from Georgia, I've forgotten who he was, came over on Saturday, and I told him that there was not a brick left. But, I said, "I can take a paper bag and go in there and get a lot of scraps." And I did. He put them in Lucite blocks with a little note that it was from the bombed section of the Capitol. He sent me over one of them. But, we got 400 additional men as a result of it.

BAKER: What did you do with those 400 men that was related to the bombing?

BALLARD: Put them on the different details. It was just a chance to grab them up.

BAKER: If you'd had those 400 men before the bombing . . .

BALLARD: It wouldn't have made a bit of difference. Because that was a carefully planned job.

BAKER: That area contained a barber shop.

page 210

BALLARD: The rest room was right across from the barber shop. In other words, you'd walk straight into the barber shop and you'd make a right turn for the rest room. And a little corridor down there and some offices. Senator [B. Everett] Jordan had an office back there. It did an awful lot of damage to those offices. And to the barber shop.

They called me at home and I got up here at 2:00 o'clock [a.m.]. When I walked in the Senate door and down the corridor, the chandelier in the small rotunda was down to the cleaning position. I said, "Who dropped that chandelier down?" No one. The concussion brought it down to the cleaning position where it locked.

BAKER: That's amazing. Was there any damage to the chandelier?

BALLARD: Not a bit. If it had dropped down three more feet, it would have been completely ruined.

BAKER: I understand that the statues on the second floor by the entrance to the old Senate chamber were moved, by the force of the explosion, about six inches.

BALLARD: It moved them some. There's a small chandelier that hangs in front of the entrance to the old Supreme Court chamber. That chandelier down there wasn't even touched. Not even a bulb was

page 211

broken. Right outside the barber shop! It broke out a couple of windows in the Senator's Dining Room and broke the picture in there and knocked some china off the tables.

BAKER: The George Washington Memorial Window?

BALLARD: Yes. Of course, it's funny what a concussion does. There's no way of following it.

BAKER: There must have been a mob scene when you got there at 2:00 o'clock in the morning. Reporters and so forth.

BALLARD: Yeah. They were all out on the front. Larry Krebs. I always used to accuse Larry of setting fires. Larry and I were good friends.

BAKER: Who's Larry Krebs?

BALLARD: Larry is with WMAL Radio. Regardless of what's going on in town, Larry is reporting from there. He is the fellow who tried to get Wilbur Mills in his car and Larry would take him home the night that he got in the ditch down here with his girl friend.

BAKER: The Tidal Basin?

page 212

BALLARD: Yes. He heard that on his police radio. Didn't know what it was, but it was an accident. He went down there and recognized Wilbur Mills. He tried his best to get Wilbur to get in his car and he would take him home or to his office. But, Wilbur was all loaded and wouldn't go.

Well, Larry was there at the door. And I said, "Larry, did you set this thing off?" I used to accuse him of setting fires and causing wrecks, so that he would have something to do. Of course, the press worried the devil out of us for weeks. But there wasn't anything we could do. We had nothing to do with the investigation. We couldn't tell them about it.

BAKER: Then you were probably happy to get rid of the investigation. Just to avoid the political flak from the leaders of the House and Senate.

BALLARD: Of course. That's right. It's like the recent narcotics investigation. I tried to get the chief to call in an outside agency. Because, I said, "Chief, there's nothing you can do. When you are investigating your own bosses, there is nothing in front of you but trouble." But, he wanted to do it, so he did. He got himself involved.

BAKER: Do you see that as part of an effort to prove that this is a real police department from top to bottom. To be able to

page 213

say that there is nothing that our department cannot do? The department has evolved from a little guard force all the way up to a large force with a canine unit, plain-clothesmen . . .

BALLARD: That's true, but there is not that much for us to do.

BAKER: But is there a sense that in case of trouble this department ought to be able to do anything.

BALLARD: That's true. It should be, but we don't train 'em that way.

BAKER: Is that the chief's goal for the department to be complete in every way?

BALLARD: Naturally. But he just doesn't go at it in the right way.

BAKER: But, is that a relatively new attitude in your experience?

BALLARD: Yes. I suppose so.

BAKER: Before the 1971 bombing, for instance, did any chief of this department really think that the department could do everything?

BALLARD: We had a chief here by the name of Charlie Sullivan. He was from downtown. He always said that this should be developed

page 214

into a police force with no outside help. Of course, his health got bad and he had to quit. In those days, we had Metropolitan up in the galleries. Chief Powell was one of them. As a plain-clothesman. Sullivan always said they had no place here. Which was true. He said this should be an organization on its own without any help from the outside. Now, we have made a lot of good moves. The chief has made a lot of good moves. He has done a lot for the police force. But, he tries to stay ahead of the hounds in the wrong way. That's what I blame him for.

I've always said we [the police] should have someone here to handle the press, because we have the worst press in town, I don't care what organization it is. We had a congressman hit a car over on the southwest drive. The patrol car came by and issued him a ticket. They wanted to know why the man [officer] who was there first didn't handle it. [Captain] Mike Boyle in the chief's office, speaking for the chief, said he wasn't trained in traffic investigation. Now that came out in the Washington Post.! Now you've got twenty weeks of [formal] training and the man's been here about ten years, and you haven't trained him to write a traffic ticket? It looks bad. And that's what they pick up on you. They don't pick up the good points.

BAKER: It is a dull story when you have the good points.

BALLARD: That's right. In fact, there shouldn't have been a ticket issued. That's another thing. That's one trouble about this

page 215

patrol [detail]. If I had my way about it, I'd break up that patrol in five minutes. We have fifty-two vehicles. Fifty-two vehicles! And all they do is ride around and issue tickets, and mostly against staff members, 'cause who else are you going to write them on up here?

BAKER: Not the tourists.

BALLARD: No. There is not a space on Capitol Hill for tourists. Not the first one! We used to have a few on the front, but they are all taken up now. It is all staff. When you write a ticket, you don't make friends writing tickets. But they don't have anything else to do. When I was in [charge of] the Capitol detail, I never allowed any tickets to be written in my jurisdiction. If you had a bump /accident/ you'd just settle it among yourselves. And if they didn't want to, you could usually say, "Well, one of you will be charged now. Let's charge one of you." And whoever was at fault would usually agree. I was there twenty years and in my time we never had the first pedestrian hurt. I thought that was a good record. Now, we had a policeman hurt. A fella drove over him. Deliberately, in the southeast drive. The fella was in a hurry and didn't have a parking permit and the officer wasn't going to let him park. And he said, "The hell I won't." And he drove over him and broke the boy's leg. Of course, he got in a barrel of trouble over it.

page 216

BAKER: I'm sure he did! (Laughter) That's attempted murder.

BALLARD: That's right. I think he settled it out of court. The boy didn't file a charge. But we were always very careful about pedestrians. And you laugh, but there are these boy scout troops that come up here each spring by the thousands and they have all been taught to help old ladies get across the street. When they get here, they spread out like geese and come through every automobile [in the parking lot].

BAKER: Let's go back to the suicide of Senator Lester Hunt in 1954. Were you involved in that at all?

BALLARD: I was the fella that was involved . . . strictly. I was the sergeant on duty that Saturday.

BAKER: Is that so? Tell me about that.

BALLARD: It was a Saturday morning and I got a call from Mike Manatos.

BAKER: Hunt's administrative assistant.

BALLARD: That's right. To come up to the office. I came up to the office and they took me back in the senator's office and the senator was stretched out on the floor dead as a door nail with a .22 caliber rifle beside him. Well, it seems as though my boy on the door there in the courtyard [of the Senate Office Building] had

page 217

carried it [the rifle] upstairs for him! Well, he came in with a lot of packages and the rifle. [The senator] Being from Wyoming, the boy thought nothing of a rifle. He wanted to know if he could help him, and the senator said yes. After he left [the boy] didn't think any more about it.

I said, "Mike, we have to get hold of homicide." And he said, "Well, I'll have to prepare a statement of some kind and I'll have to have some time." I said, "I happen to know a fellow who lives in Springfield [Virginia] named Jack Frost, a detective." I called Jack. He called me back and I told him what I had. Jack told me to meet him in front of our guard room. He and his partner arrived and I took them in and down the corridor and up to Hunt's room and introduced them to Manatos. They said, "We'll call Gawler's [funeral home] and get a flower truck up here. Nobody will be suspicious of a flower truck, because there's always one parked there delivering flowers. And they did send one. It wasn't very long. I went downstairs and told the boy, "You get out there in the street [First Street] and if there is a car that starts to come in here, tell them there's something wrong with the gate and direct them around. By the time they ride around the block, we'll be all right." You didn't expect many people in there on Saturday, but if just by chance somebody might. So he did. [We] Brought him down the elevator and put him in the flower truck and took him to Gawlers. In the meantime Mike prepared the story and gave the release to the papers.

page 218

BAKER: So, it was all handled pretty quickly.

BALLARD: Nobody knew it until he gave out that press release.

BAKER: What a shock!

BALLARD: Yes, it was. Hunt was a very affable, friendly man. He had a son on the [Capitol] police force that caused him all this trouble.

BAKER: I didn't realize the son was on the force.

BALLARD: Oh, yes. He graduated from college and was here four years on the police force. Drew Pearson and some of them threatened to expose him [for alleged homosexuality] and the old man couldn't take it.
[End of Interview #7]

page 219

Leonard Ballard

Inspector, United States Capitol Police (1947-1984)

Interview #8

(Thursday, October 27, 1983)
Interviewed by Richard A. Baker

BALLARD: There was an incident with [Fidel] Castro when he came up here [in July 1959] to meet with Nixon that I think is an interesting item in history. Castro took over Cuba in January and he came to the United States in July. He was in New York and then he came down to Washington. He had an appointment with Nixon on Sunday at 1:00 o'clock in the vice president's formal [Capitol] office. I had to come in because it was a special occasion. It was only supposed to be an hour. I told my wife to come with me because it was only going to be an hour. I parked at the Senate steps so she could see him come in. So, he came in with his chicken pluckers. Well, at 4:00 o'clock, they sent word down to the Senate restaurant to find someone to make them some coffee. At 4:00 o'clock!

Somebody rustled it up. They broke up at 6:00 that evening! They came out and had a press conference in the Senate Reception Room. The chicken pluckers were in there and they had on the same coveralls, I think, that they had worn during the January invasion. They had their long hair in rubber band pony tails. New American wrist watches. American cigarettes. And they were living it up! Well, they had the press conference and Castro invited Nixon to come to Cuba. Nixon changed the subject. But, I paid attention to

page 220

it. The next morning, I was up in the Senate Lobby and Major Hughes, Nixon's aide, was in there and I said, "That was funny that Castro invited Nixon to come to Cuba, but he changed the subject." And he said, "After you cleared all these people out yesterday, the vice president called Betty, that was his secretary, in and dictated a memo to President Eisenhower, 'Beware of this man. He definitely has communistic leanings.'" But apparently somebody didn't pay any attention to the memo. If they had, maybe things would have been a little different.

BAKER: Maybe they would have. You've known Nixon for a long period of time.

BALLARD: I knew him right from when he first came here. He didn't have many close friends, but if he liked you, he was your friend. He'd stop and talk to me. We had the Senate Staff Club and I was its sergeant at arms. I would invite him and he came to nearly every event.

BAKER: Just as a participant. Not necessarily as a speaker?

BALLARD: That's right. I have a picture of us presenting him with a membership card. He appreciated it and he attended just about every meeting of the club.

page 221

BAKER: People have said about Nixon that he was not very good at small talk. That he couldn't relax in an informal kind of setting. But, that doesn't sound like what you are saying.

BALLARD: He relaxed with us. Or seemed to. Of course, what he did [regarding Watergate], that's something else, but I always liked the man personally, because he always seemed to return . . . If you needed a favor . . . and he had a good side to him.

He had a fella when he was vice president . . . a doorman. He put him in the vice president's formal office to show visitors around. Members send people in to see the formal office. He could explain it.

BAKER: He was there on a full time basis?

BALLARD: Yes. All he did was handle the vice president's formal office. Of course, now, he had a sightseeing business personally. On the side.

BAKER: The doorman did?

BALLARD: Yes, naturally, you know what I mean. And he would set down on the Senate steps outside and solicit sightseeing with the snapper, "You take a tour with me and I'll give you a personally conducted tour of the vice president's formal office." Pete would take them downtown on the tours. You could tell who held taken, because

page 222

the next morning about 9:00 o'clock some people would show up hunting Pete and the vice president's formal office. Well, you didn't do anything about it except to show them where Pete was. Pete did a good business, but he took sick. He was up in Sibley Hospital. Nixon went up to see him. John, the chauffeur, drove him up. He asked Pete if he could do anything for him. Pete said, "I'd like to have a cold bottle of beer." So he came out and told John, "If you see any store that sells beer, stop." They found a "Mom and Pop" store up there and he sent John in to get a case. They took it back to the hospital and left it for Pete. Pete died the next day. He never even got the beer. Nixon saw to it that his body was taken care of. That's a side that people don't know about him.

Of course, up here you don't judge people on their political views. You judge them on the person that you know. They have their own reasons for their political views and that doesn't make any difference to you. You do what they want to do. I have never seen a senator yet that wouldn't help an employee. You just have to find the right senator and he'll help you.

BAKER: And it doesn't really make any difference whether it's a junior senator or a senior senator.

BALLARD: Oh, no, no.

page 223

BAKER: You mentioned the little tour business on the side. Does a lot of that go on with staff. Do you find that there are staff people who run their own little tour business to pick up money on the side?

BALLARD: No. Many years ago, however, the policemen had arrangements with certain tour guides and taxi drivers. They got a dollar a head for every person that they sent to this tour guide. In a day's time they could do pretty good.

BAKER: So they would just give out a card?

BALLARD: That's right, with their initial on the back. I never worked the [East] Front, but at one time we had a (deleted) here who charged men so much a day for [being stationed on] the East Front.

BAKER: Just for the "privilege" of being stationed there?

BALLARD: That's right. Twenty dollars on Saturday. Thirty dollars on Sunday! But they could make it back [quickly]. Now, you never had to worry about them taking a break. (Laughter)

BAKER: I bet you didn't.

BALLARD: And they ate their lunch standing by their car. Up East Capitol Street there were quite a few tourist homes in those days. They got so much per head for those that they sent to the tourist home. They had their card with the initial on the back and

page 224

they'd go by the tourist home and pick up there money. It got to be pretty well known. The Sergeant at Arms of the House at that time, he didn't like it.

BAKER: Zeake Johnson?

BALLARD: No. It was before him. He got dropped as Sergeant at Arms. Now, (deleted) on the Senate side took the idea that the men are not making much money, and we weren't in those days. And if it doesn't interfere with there duties . . . they were on their posts . . . just don't make an issue of it. But the Sergeant at Arms of the House got a hold of the hack inspector's office, and they sent a man and a woman up here one morning. They solicited three boys [police] and they got caught. One of the boys was under [Senator James] Eastland. The other two were House men. They didn't get fired. The Sergeant at Arms suspended them

until he found out that nothing was going to happen to the Senate boy, so he restored them back to their jobs. And that's the last we heard of that. Of course it went on.

We had one boy . . . I suppose he bought a couple of apartment houses with Kodak film. See, there wasn't a place on this Hill to buy Kodak film and he had the trunk of his car loaded with any kind you wanted.

BAKER: How would people know he had it available?

page 225

BALLARD: The other men would tell them. They would ask. "I've run out of film. You don't know where we can buy some film?" "Sure, see that officer standing over there . . ."

BAKER: So then he would have to give them some kickbacks.

BALLARD: Oh, yes. He'd give them a dime or fifteen cents on the box. This boy was born in Czechoslovakia. I don't know what his original name was but he changed it to Andrew Billy. He bought two apartment houses and retired from the force to take care of the apartment houses. He died just a few years ago.

BAKER: Does that still go on?

BALLARD: Oh, no. It came to an end [in the 1950s] when we got Charlie Sullivan, the first Metropolitan chief. Not the first one, the second one. The first was Bob Pearce. Now Bob wasn't very dangerous. But Charlie Sullivan threw the fear of God in 'em. I want to tell you. He was a tough character.

BAKER: Did he come in immediately after Pearce?

BALLARD: That's right. He was rough. One of the finest fellas I've ever known. One of the fairest. He wanted you to do the job, and he wanted you to do it right. He didn't break your back, but, "No monkey business of any kind!" None. And the word got out and the boys closed their tents. They knew held fire them. It didn't

page 226

make any difference who your sponsor was. He had a way . . . I've heard him talk to AA's like he was talking to a new private. I wouldn't dare do it. I knew a case involving [Representative John] McMillan of South Carolina. He was a powerful member. He had a man on the police force. The fella was riding out McMillan's strength. He worked for me and finally, I'd had it up to here. I talked to Chief Sullivan about him and he said, "Well, bring him down. Let me talk to him." We went in the chief's office and the chief said something about some infractions and the boy said, "Why, you want to talk to Congressman McMillan." (Laughter) Sullivan reached across the desk and got his badge and took the badge off and most of the side of his shirt at the same time. He turned to me and said, "Take

him into the supply room and take the rest of his clothes off and send him home." Now, that fella stayed at the House door for three weeks trying to catch McMillan. Sullivan had probably talked to McMillan, I don't know, but McMillan never had any more to do with him. He never came back and finally went back to South Carolina. That was the type of fella Sullivan was. It didn't take too much of that before the word got out. "Don't fool with him."

BAKER: Was Sullivan around for a while?

BALLARD: Yes. He left about 1964. He got something wrong with his back. He went on sick leave and he retired in April 1964.

BAKER: Is that when you became Acting Chief?

page 227

BALLARD: I was Acting Chief during that period. Sullivan always said that an outsider had no business up here. That he had no business up here. "Should have their own man up here. He knows them and what to do. We don't. We come in here [from the Metropolitan department] strangers. It takes us years to learn it." We had quite a few Metropolitan police who had retired who came up here. They knew the rounds. They had run across members and had gotten acquainted with them. He got rid of every one of them.

BAKER: Did he really?

BALLARD: Yes, he did! We had a retired fireman. And that was the last one. The chief asked me one day where he [the fireman] was. I said that he had called in sick. He said, "Do you have his telephone number?" And I said, "Of course." I was there. He called him. "When you get well, bring in your clothes, because you are off of the [pay] rolls effective today." And sure enough, the fella came back. I know he went to his member. That was it. He was gone. Sullivan had a way about him. He could operate. Maybe it would have been a stronger police force if he'd have stayed here.

BAKER: He came in shortly after the Puerto Rican shooting, so maybe he picked up on some of the sentiment for reform and professionalism?

page 228

BALLARD: That's right. You see, he worked both sides of the street, too. He worked the Senate side. He worked the House side. He was originally from Boston. He and Tip were buddies. Maybe he used that. I don't know. He never used it with me. He was Joe Duke's type of man because Sullivan was tough . . . Duke was tough.

BAKER: Speaking about Nixon as vice president reminds me of your story of Nixon as president when he came up here the morning after the Cambodian

Incursion [1970]. I read an article in which you discussed that. Maybe you could tell me what that was all about.

BALLARD: I carpooled, and I still do. I came into work that morning with my carpool. They dropped me off at the Senate steps. Well, there was the president's limousine and a secret service car.

BAKER: What time in the morning?

BALLARD: About 5:30, quarter of six. I knew about the Cambodian thing, so I thought, "Somebody's punched the Button." But I didn't see Mansfield's car and I didn't see Dirksen's car. I said something about it to the boys and got out of the carpool. I went in the Senate Door and there was the head of the secret service detail. I knew his grandfather. He was originally from my neck of the woods. In fact, my nephew and this fella had graduated from Marshall University together. I knew his father well. And I'd run into "Hammy." His name was Percy Brown. He had a nickname of Hammy, I suppose

page 229

anything to avoid being called "Percy." (Laughter) Maybe he gave him the name himself! But Hammy was standing there. Hammy's grandfather was in the coal business and my father was with the coal companies. They were good friends. That's how I knew the family. When Hammy came up here, he looked me up first thing, being from home and all. All right. There stands Hammy and an agent over on the red phones--the phones that go direct to the [police] office. He had said that he would like to have someone come up and let him in the Senate chamber because the president was up there. Well, the clown down on the desk downstairs said, "Well, I've never met him. Ask him to come down and we'll have some coffee." He thought somebody was pulling his leg.

BAKER: Sure. Five-thirty in the morning!

BALLARD: That's right. Hammy told me. I said, "Hammy, tell your buddy to drop the phone. He's never going to get anything out of the basement. I'll be right back just as soon as I take my coat off and I'll go down and I'll have the key. Now, I had a key [to the Senate chamber]. I have a key right in that drawer there [pointing]. I don't suppose I'll ever use it, but I have it. Mr. Duke gave me a key. Nobody was supposed to know. He gave it to me because on Saturdays members would want to take guests on the floor and they would disturb him [at home]. He didn't want to be disturbed. He gave me the key and said, "When they make an inquiry about it, you

page 230

can take them in there. I don't know anything about it. Don't want to know. But I'm giving you this key." So, I went downstairs and put on my blouse and got my key and went back up. Nixon and his valet were standing outside . . .

BAKER: Standing outside the Senate chamber?

BALLARD: Yes. You know, the Reception Room. The little hall out there.

BAKER: They'd been out there all along?

BALLARD: They were up there waiting to get in. When I went up, Nixon said, "Well, I know we'll get some action now. He came here the same time [1947] that I did. Which was true. And he introduced me to his valet and I unlocked the door and we went in. He spent some time. Went in the vice president's office. It was quite a while. Then, he said, "How about going over to the House?" I said, "Well, you won't run into any trouble over there. It's not locked. They come in about 2:00 o'clock [a.m.] over there.

BAKER: To clean it up.

BALLARD: Yes. We had a man stationed over there because they did open up early. So we went through the Rotunda, over to the House and took them around to the side. Went in. He explained the House to him [his valet].

page 231

BAKER: This was just for the benefit of the valet?

BALLARD: That's all. There was nobody else along, but a couple of secret service agents. You know they could care less about what it was. What they were waiting on was eight o'clock so they could get off. I think it was just because he couldn't sleep. Nixon couldn't sleep and he had to do something. He had stopped down at the Tidal Basin to talk to some of those demonstrators down there. After we came back through the Rotunda, we came down on the elevator and he said to me, "Is there any place that we can get breakfast here?" And I said, "Well, I'll tell you, Mr. President, that hasn't changed up here. They don't open up till eight o'clock (partner)." He said, "Well, what do you do?" I said, "Well, I eat before I come in here." "Pretty early!" And I said, "Yeah. Pretty early." So, we came down in the car and we talked awhile and he loaded up. Hammy told me later that they stopped at the Mayflower Hotel and had breakfast. The first time that he'd eaten away from the White House since he'd been down there.

BAKER: How much time did he spend here that morning?

BALLARD: A couple of hours.

BAKER: So, he left about 7:30.

page 232

BALLARD: Must have been. He left a little before eight, because I told him nothing opens 'til eight. Every time I ever ran into him, he was always very friendly.

BAKER: That's a good point. You talked about the two views of a senator. The ideological senator on one side and the personal human being on the other. And that must be true of presidents. You've known a lot of presidents. You knew Truman . . .

BALLARD: Oh, yes, Truman . . . Now, I have a picture of Truman that was made on his eightieth birthday [May 8, 1964]. He was up at the Senate Reception Room. They had had a Masonic convention over at the Marriott Hotel. He came up to the Capitol the next morning, the day of his eightieth birthday, up to S-207. And had his picture made with quite a few candidates . . . that old publicity job. They brought some House members over. Truman said that he would like to have one with me. I reckon that Muto [the Senate Democratic photographer] was taking it. Everybody got back. He and I shook hands. Of course, Muto gave me a copy. Humphrey was there and he told me if I wanted it autographed, to bring it to his office up on the third floor and he'd send it back to Independence to have it autographed. But, I just never did.

Truman told me once that he wished Missouri could have two and a half senators. Held like to be that half. 'Cause he didn't want anything to happen to Senators [Thomas] Hennings and [Edward] Long.

page 233

He loved the Senate. He would talk about the Senate . . . he would rather have been senator than president. I took him out of John Kennedy's inaugural luncheon [January 1961] in the Old Supreme Court Room. He came out and he saw me standing right outside the door. He said to me, "You are always around when I need you. How about helping me get down those steps down there?" And I said, "Well, sure I'll help you." He said that he was in a hotel in Kansas City and he went to sleep and his leg went to sleep. He got up suddenly and said he didn't know what he had done to it but he said, "By gosh, I'm having trouble." We went down the steps.

There was a Secret Service agent down there that I had worked with on the Metropolitan and Capitol Police--Floyd Boring. Well, I suppose it was back in 1948, but the president and Congress had gotten into some trouble over appropriations. And Truman wouldn't sign the Appropriation Act and we had to go a month without pay. That was the only payday I ever missed here. Well, what they did, they withheld the president's money and he had no Secret Service. (Laughter) And quite a few of them came up here and got on the Capitol Police Force. I knew three. Now, af ter the money was restored and everything got back to normal, they went back down to the White House. Well, one of them was standing down at the foot of the stairs [in 1961]. He had been at the White House and Truman took a liking to him and he drove Truman's car. Now he was [allegedly] driving the car when they had the wreck in South America. I said to

him one day, "Were you driving or was the president?" He said, "Well, you read the newspaper report, I was driving." I'm quite sure that Truman was driving the car, because Boring wouldn't wreck it.

We were going down the steps and Truman looked down and saw Floyd and he said, "My God! Floyd, you old son of a bitch, what are you doing here?" And Floyd said, "I'm waiting on you." I said, "Well, I'm going to turn you over to Floyd. He's bigger than I am and if your leg gives out, he can carry you. I can't."

Truman used to come up to the Capitol [when he was president] often. We thought once he had run out of groceries down there. He was up there nearly every night to eat.

BAKER: Where did he go to eat?

BALLARD: In the Senators' Dining Room. Eat and drink. He and Russell Long. I was there one night . . . the press would hear about it. The building was closed and they'd come down. You had to watch the press. If you had your back turned to them, they would hit you on this shoulder [pointing]. What they wanted to do was distract your attention and then they'd go by on this [the opposite] side. That was an old trick. I was there one night and somebody hit me on the shoulder. I reached right around and got him . . . right by the leg! (Laughter) It was Russell Long!

BAKER: He was just being friendly, just patting you on the shoulder.

BALLARD: No. Somebody else patted me.

BAKER: I see. So you thought you were getting him and you came up with Russell Long. You had a live senator! (Laughing)

BALLARD: I forget who I thought I had . . . Dan Schorr or somebody. I said (Laughing), "Pardon me!"

BAKER: Well, you knew Truman pretty well. You also knew Lyndon Johnson.

BALLARD: Lyndon was a different package. Nobody got next to Lyndon. Nobody! He had his own little clique, naturally, but outside of that he wasn't too friendly. He knew me. Everytime held see me, held shake hands, "How ya doing." When I was acting chief /in 1964/ they were having the Civil Rights filibuster and I got word . . . it was Saturday night and the Senate had just adjourned. When I called downstairs to tell them they had adjourned, they said, "Rush to the House Door. President Johnson is on his way to the House Door." This was Saturday night at 8:30! I tore out to the House Door and a Secret Service agent was standing right inside the door. There was nobody else there except the officer on

the desk. Just about the time I got there, the limousine drove up. The agent said to me, "He's going to the Board of Education Room. Can you show me

page 236

where it is?" I said, "No. We don't have time. But you don't have to worry about him. He knows where it is. He's well acquainted with that."

So, Johnson came in. Shook hands with me. Glad to see me. Made his turn. I told the agent, "All we have to do is follow him." A congressman from North Carolina . . . the "Sugar Lobby" was having a hassle. I can't recall the member's name, but he had come up to see if he couldn't get that sugar bill straightened out. Saturday night! He was up there quite a while.

BAKER: He probably got it straightened out, too.

BALLARD: Oh, yes. You know when he put his stamp on it, he would either straighten it up or tear it up. Maybe he lost the war, but he never lost a battle. If he couldn't win it, he quit it. That was one of his ways of doing business.

BAKER: Well, when he was in the Senate, I get the impression he pretty well set his own rules.

BALLARD: Oh, sure he did.

BAKER: After our last session, you mentioned the time he had his picture taken in the Senate chamber with Bill Moyers.

page 237

BALLARD: That just wasn't done. It was a strict rule that's been followed since the Senate chamber first opened. They make an official photograph of members in the Senate chamber.

BAKER: But even that only started in 1962.

BALLARD: That's right, but a camera inside. No way.

BAKER: Why is that?

BALLARD: I suppose it is to protect the senators.

BAKER: Why don't they allow a camera in there when the Senate is not in session?

BALLARD: Beats me. I have never been able to understand it. When school children go in (on the floor when the Senate is not in session), we have to have a man at that door to see that they leave their cameras on the couches in the lobby.

BAKER: So, on that earlier occasion, Bill Moyers and Johnson went into the chamber when the Senate was not in session.

BALLARD: That was the day Moyers was leaving Johnson's staff. He had his degree and he was leaving. Johnson was there and Frank Muto [the official Senate Democratic photographer] and I said to Frank, "Where are you going?" He said, "I'm supposed to meet him in the Senate chamber." And I said, "Not with that camera." He said,

page 238

"Well, I don't know what else he'd want with me." And Johnson got up in the chair and Bill got up beside him. And Frank is out there shooting and I'm holding my breath. I'm there and I'm holding my breath that Joe Duke doesn't open that door up in Gallery 7, right outside his office, which he did often. And look down. He'd have wrecked us.

BAKER: That would have been curtains for you.

BALLARD: As far as I'm concerned it would have been. How in the world would I have stopped Lyndon Johnson from anything.

It reminds me of one time when [Senator John] Pastore was making a campaign picture. He had a photographer. He was in on the floor with someone. And he wanted to take a picture coming out of the floor into the Senate Lobby behind the chamber. And there are no pictures allowed there, either. I didn't know what I was going to do. Pastore was tough. He said something about, "We'll have him take a picture of you and I coming out." (Laughter) And I thought to myself, "And Joe Duke will pick up a Rhode Island paper and see that!" So, I suggested that it might be better if it showed us coming out the swinging doors into the Reception Room. He bought it! I got him out of that lobby.

BAKER: That was a close call.

page 239

BALLARD: You're darn right. He did keep the photographer off the Senate floor because I told him that Mr. Duke had a strict rule. It is hard to turn them down.

BAKER: Also, at the end of our session last time, you told the story about the naming of the Lyndon Johnson and the John F. Kennedy Rooms in the Capitol.

BALLARD: When Kennedy was running for president, he was in the Senate, of course. They built a little plywood room that led into what is now the "Kennedy Room." It was just a temporary room. He had a doorman who stayed in there. If people wanted to visit with him, they'd bring him off the Senate floor and into that room. He never used what is now known as the Kennedy Room. That was Joe Duke's "Key Club."

BAKER: The plywood room was actually built near the Senate entrance on the second floor?

BALLARD: Yes. Right by the back elevator. It didn't interfere with the elevators. It was up just so high, maybe eight feet. It was by the alcove at the entrance to the Kennedy Room.

BAKER: So it blocked the entrance to the Kennedy Room?

page 240

BALLARD: Yes, but they never used that entrance. They always went through Joe Duke's office. Well, Mrs. Kennedy was coming up to S-207 for a luncheon.

BAKER: When he was in the White House?

BALLARD: Yes. It was a quick job. I think it was Mrs. Mansfield's idea, because the day she was coming up here . . . that morning, I was making my rounds as usual and the boys from the carpenter shop were up there painting. And I said, "What the hell is going on?" They said, "We don't know. We got a call this morning to come up here and paint "Kennedy" and "Johnson" on these rooms. That's what we're doing and that's all we're doing." Of course, after the luncheon, they brought Mrs. Kennedy around to show her the Kennedy and the Johnson Rooms. I was there for that. I had to bring them around, because the tourists were all in there. Mrs. Mansfield showed the rooms to Mrs. Kennedy.

BAKER: Was Mrs. Kennedy impressed?

BALLARD: Nothing impressed Mrs. Kennedy! If it did, she had a beautiful way of keeping it away from the public. (Laughter)

BAKER: As far as you know, Lyndon Johnson as president of the Senate had the authority to say, "We're going to name one room after the current president and one after the current vice president."

page 241

BALLARD: Who was going to stop him?

BAKER: Certainly not Mike Mansfield.

BALLARD: No. And the Architect of the Capitol? No. It's the game on the Hill . You don't hit yourself in the head. And that's what you do if you buck a fella like Lyndon Johnson. Or Mike Mansfield. Mike Mansfield was one of the calmest characters you've ever known. But he had power when he wanted to use it. He had a buddy there on the Republican side--George Aiken. Aiken was strong on seniority. They knew how to get along.

BAKER: They had those regular breakfasts.

BALLARD: They had breakfast every morning. In the cafeteria in the Dirksen Building. Lola [Pierotti] and Mansfield and Aiken. Of course, later Lola married Aiken. On one morning a month they had the Marine breakfast in S-207. And Mansfield always attended that. Mansfield was a gung-ho Marine. Outside of that, every morning they had breakfast together.

BAKER: Had the Marine breakfast been going on for many years?

BALLARD: Yes.

BAKER: Do they still have it?

pae 242

BALLARD: Yes. They usually have a congressman as one of the officers in the organization, and I think it has been held over on the House side for a couple of years. But Mansfield had it [as sponsor] for three or four years. I had quite a few fellas [on the force] who had been in the Marine Corps and they always liked to go. And I excused them to attend.

BAKER: It was open to anyone who had been a Marine?

BALLARD: That's right.

BAKER: Sort of like the Nebraska breakfast.

BALLARD: Yes, but of course, it hadn't been going on as long as the Nebraska breakfast. That thing's been going on almost as long as there has been a Nebraska, I think (Laughing).

BAKER: Your dealings with Mansfield were pretty much at arms length?

BALLARD: Oh, yes. Mrs. Mansfield and I were very good friends. When he first came here, she worked in his office. She'd come over to the Capitol with papers from his office and she'd be standing out in the Reception Room waiting on him to come out and look at them and we'd visit. We got to be very good friends. Mansfield was a fella who was strictly a gentleman. You learned that if he was going into his [Capitol] office and a tour group was coming through, you

page 243

learned, don't stop the tour for Mansfield. He didn't want that. If I put a man up there, it was the one thing I'd tell him.

BAKER: You have seen some interesting majority leaders.

BALLARD: Yes, indeed. Robert Byrd did his through his pocket full of chits.

BAKER: And a good memory.

BALLARD: He knew my brother in West Virginia very well. That's when he first came here. He'd only been here a couple of months. We had a West Virginia State Society program down at one of the hotels. Well, he had offered his services as MC or something. It was a dinner. He came over to me. I had only met him one time. But, he came over to me and asked me if I would give the invocation. Well, of course, I said yes. Well, my wife said to me, "Now what are you going to do?" (Laughter) I said, "I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to give the invocation!" She said, "I want to stay around for this (Laughing)." So, I did! He complimented me.

I found out later that he had me mixed up with my brother. Now my brother looked a whole lot like me. We always called him the "Black Sheep" of the family because he was active in the Baptist Church. He was active in all the good will and charitable organizations. And Byrd is a very active Baptist and he had run across him in a lot of Baptist meetings and that sort of thing. In fact, he

page 244

asked my brother later on, at a Baptist Church in Hinton, "When did you come down?" And my brother said, "I have never been anywhere." And then one of his staff later told me, "He got screwed up on you!" (Laughter) When he came over to ask me to give the invocation, I knew he thought I was my brother.

BAKER: So, you tried to act as your brother would have acted.

BALLARD: Yes. I gave the invocation!

BAKER: Last time, after we turned off the tape, we talked a little bit about the "Quorum Club." Was that originally located in the old Carroll Arms Hotel?

BALLARD: In the Carroll Arms Hotel, second floor. Of course, the Carroll Arms went out of business. It went bankrupt. They moved over in the building on Schotts Court.

BAKER: Was it a town house?

BALLARD: Yes. You might say it was. We'd call it a town house now. And there were several apartments. [Senator Karl] Mundt had one. And [E.Y.] Berry, the congressman from South Dakota had an apartment in there. They were the only two members of Congress living there.

BAKER: Who ran the Quorum Club?

page 245

BALLARD: Bobby Baker.

BAKER: He actually owned it?

BALLARD: He didn't actually own it, but he ran it. He was membership chairman and president. Then there was that lobbyist Glenn . . . what's his last name . . . ? He and Bobby were buddy buddies. He was the lobbyist and Bobby was the employee here on the Hill. But, he is the fella who put the sting on Bobby Baker! He told somebody about these vending machines that Bobby had that nobody knew anything about. And that's when they started investigating.

BAKER: Had Kerr died at that point?

BALLARD: No, Kerr was still around [i.e. pre-1963].

BAKER: Who was eligible for membership in the Quorum Club?

BALLARD: I don't know. That was up to Bobby. In fact, I think most of them were lobbyists. In fact, I think that's strictly what it was.

BAKER: But any member of Congress was free to go.

BALLARD: Oh, yes. Apparently all were welcome, naturally. There were some who wouldn't get caught in there.

page 246

BAKER: Now, there's the "116 Club." It used to be located at 116 Schott's Court. Now it has moved over to 234 Third Street, N.E.

BALLARD: I don't know much about it.

BAKER: I was just wondering if it was an outgrowth of the Quorum Club?

BALLARD: I think it was. The same type of organization, but not as well known and as powerful as the Quorum Club.

BAKER: But that club got its start in the Carroll Arms?

BALLARD: On the second floor. I think it just moved up from the bar. The fellow who ran the bar was named Anderson. He was quite a politician. He knew how to get business into that bar . . . how to get the members in. They did a terrific business.

BAKER: Quite an institution.

BALLARD: Yes it was. Many a fella was homeless when it closed.

BAKER: To change the subject a bit, I wanted to ask you about women coming to the police force. That's a fairly recent situation.

BALLARD: The first ones came here in the latter part of 1974. We have now, I'd say 120. Now, the turnover is much greater than
page 247

with the men. They get pregnant and leave. They find out it's not the job they thought it was. They get married and their husbands take them.

BAKER: Are their duties any different than the male officers?

BALLARD: Not any different actually. I think we have maybe one or two on patrol. That's the mobile unit. Actually, I don't think women have any business on the street, to tell you the truth. They are just not physically able to handle the street. Fortunately, we don't have much of that here. Downtown is different. We don't have any "street" except checking cars for parking stickers. Of course, there's a place in the clerical end of it. They fit in there. They do a job just as well as a man. In fact, in a lot of cases, better. Outside of that, I don't know what they do with them downtown. I do know they've had trouble with them. But, up here they fit in well because we don't have any street crime.
(Portions Deleted)

page 248

(Portions Deleted)

BAKER: On a different subject, recently there was legislation passed to allow the Capitol Police to protect members off the Hill. Under certain circumstances. What's behind all of that?

BALLARD: Politics. It is the best way to lobby that you could find. As I said, [Chief] Powell is one of the sharpest characters that we have on the Hill. Don't underestimate him. He's sharp. He works on the same principle as J. Edgar Hoover did. "Scare the hell out of them, but be sure that they can reach around in the dark and find a protector." J. Edgar Hoover kept the hell scared out of them, but there was an FBI agent there to jerk you out of the blaze. Powell works the same way. It satisfies the ego of a lot of members if they can point to somebody and say, "This fella's protecting me."

BAKER: It says the person is important enough to need it.

BALLARD: That's right. He goes out of town, and he 's had a threat--we send a couple of officers along. It makes him "important in Washington."

BAKER: Plain clothes officers?

page 249

BALLARD: That's right. Not in uniform. Now when you go [to the Appropriations Committee] for men, there's no problem. Those fellas are sitting

right there on that committee. Now, what good they do I don't know. It has never been tried out. They have never had to muscle anybody.

BAKER: Since that law was passed, have many members used it?

BALLARD: Oh, yes. They use it frequently.

BAKER: Is there a special detachment of men who are available just for that?

BALLARD: No. We draw them from our "Protective Section." They are in plain clothes every day. They are over in the galleries, assigned there and if you need a couple, why you get them. We send a couple of plain clothesmen with the contingent going to funerals. I don't know what for . . . maybe to get coffee for them. Back in the early days, it was the Sergeant at Arms. Now, that was a good trip. The Sergeant at Arms always took a couple of buddies with him because it was a free ride wherever they were going. Back in the old days when I first came here, it was all trains. They went by train and, boy, that was a jolly trip. Now they go by plane and don't get to spend as much time. It's a good trip anyhow.

BAKER: How about the whole question of threats against members? Is that a fairly routine thing?

page 250

BALLARD: Well, that depends on what you think is a threat. What is a threat to some people isn't to another. Some think of them as another kook letter or kook call. And some don't.

(Portions Deleted)

BAKER: That camera system was put in after the 1971 bombing. A pretty expensive system to cover all of the corridors of the Capitol and the office buildings.

BALLARD: For what they're allowed to cover, it's covered pretty well. I don't think we use it much.

BAKER: There's somebody there full time monitoring it?

BALLARD: Oh, yes. Twenty-four hours. We have a pretty good sized staff on communications. At first, they'd get a few [false alarms] because it was sort of new to them. Any movement, you know would alert them. But now it is sort of old hat.

BAKER: Like anything else. I suppose that's the time when you can most expect trouble.

page 251

BALLARD: That's right. When you get lax. That's it every time. That's like they used to say in the coal mines, "You never heard of a new man getting killed by a slate fall." It was always some veteran coal miner. Not a new man. He was always too careful. So, that's the way it is up here. The longer it goes on, the more lax.

BAKER: So it will take another major catastrophe to tighten up on security. I suppose the recent [October 23, 1983] suicide bombing in Beirut must be creating a lot of concern on the part of the people who run this police force. The Capitol sits up there as a great target for all kinds of mischief.

BALLARD: Well, I don't think that put any additional security on us.

BAKER: But it is a reminder of what can happen. If somebody is determined enough to do it . . .

BALLARD: Well, you know, there is no protection against anarchy. There never has been and there never will be. There's no way that you can stop them, because they are determined people and they'll find a way to out think you. It is like the bomb that they put off in the Capitol [in 1971]. That was anarchy. There was no way to stop it. It was going to be done. [Ten days after this

page 252

session, on November 7, 1983 at 11:00 p.m., another bomb exploded in the Capitol, outside the Senate chamber, causing \$250,000 in damage.]

BAKER: Or that guy who was up in the House gallery the other day. He could have blown himself up if he'd wanted to.

BALLARD: That's right. Of course, fortunately, he wasn't too serious. He didn't have any powder. But, there would be no way to stop it. There are not enough people to stop it. Because they know a way to get in. They'll figure out a way.

BAKER: So, more men and more money is not the answer in your judgment.

BALLARD: No. There is no answer, to tell you the truth.

BAKER: That Commission on the Operation of the Senate in the mid-1970s made some pretty strong recommendations about the police force and they were all in the direction of making it smaller and more consolidated.

BALLARD: That's right.

BAKER: They said that you should bring the House and the Senate details together. Is that reasonable to do? Is there any real efficiency to be achieved?

page 253

BALLARD: Well, I don't know where it would help any. Now, they are together to a certain extent. But the pay periods are different. The House gets paid once a month, the Senate gets paid twice a month. You still have a certain amount of patronage on the House side. None on the Senate. But, as far as working conditions, we work House men over on this [the Senate] side. Senate men on that [House] side. Not many, however.

BAKER: But you have that flexibility. You can pull them over.

BALLARD: When we had patronage, we did it more than we do now. In order to protect him, we'd bring him over on the Senate side and hide him. I've done that many a time. Nobody knew whose payroll he was on. It was nobody's business. But, change is slow on Capitol Hill. I don't care where it is. It may come, but it moves like a snail. It takes something drastic to change. Now, we have increased, it is true. As I have said, when I came here, there were 157, about 100 of them working. And it has increased . . . under the Republican 80th Congress, I think by 15, and it has gradually grown.

The changes themselves, in the working of the Capitol Police Force, have been very little from the day I came here. Very little.

BAKER: You have more extensions of the force. You have the dog unit

page 254

BALLARD: The dog unit has just about petered out. When it first started, there were about twelve men on the dog detail. We found out we could get along without them.

BAKER: One of the recommendations back in 1976 was that perhaps duties that did not have anything to do with security could be assigned to non-police personnel. Such as parking. That you could make the force smaller and more specifically oriented toward security.

BALLARD: Well . . . you see, security is something else up here. It is doubtful. You can get to a certain point in security and then you've got to cut it out. Just like I say. The cameras. That's put up there for security, but it didn't suit this member in his office, "I don't want that camera up there near my office." So, security stopped right there. As long as it doesn't tread on some member's toes, you can have security. But, if you start pinching, security is out. It is limited on Capitol Hill and it will be as long as members are here. And that's what they're here for. It is okay to protect the next fella, "But don't get next to me." So, you'll never have much security up here!

BAKER: Some of those proposals for reform say to cut the force back and have a contract with the Park Police or Metropolitan, so that if you need help in a crisis, then you have those people when you need them, and then they go away.

page 255

BALLARD: Again you run in . . . you see Park is very limited in personnel. Metropolitan . . . you could use them, but when you call down there, they usually have a similar situation downtown, because about the only time you need to call them is when you have a demonstration. Well, if you have a demonstration up here, you've got one downtown, too. So they can't send you men. They've got them all tied up.

We think we have to have too many on these demonstrations. I've always said that. We spend a lot of money in overtime and men when it is not necessary. We have never had a demonstration up here yet where we have had to use force. When it comes to actually using force, the demonstrations are not that tight. They are not here to battle you. They'll try to make you think they are, but let them hit you first. And it won't happen.

I have been, when I was over in the Capitol Building, in every type of demonstration that you could think of, but when it came to knock down and drag out, it wasn't there.

(Portions Deleted)

page 256

BAKER: Well, as you look back to the days when they only had one hundred men present for duty, what do you miss most about that time?

BALLARD: You were a little closer. Everybody stuck together. They protected each other. Now you don't have that. The men . . . I don't say they rat on each other, but they will tell on each other if they get in a jam. They will put somebody else in the middle.

BAKER: Do you think that's a function of bigness and bureaucracy?

BALLARD: That's right. We had a captain that used to get loaded, in the 80th Congress [1947-48], and he'd come down here to the guard room. He'd come over to the Carroll Arms and get drunk and he'd come down and display weapons and scare the hell out of you.

BAKER: Was he on duty at the time?

BALLARD: No. Well, he was always on duty. Those riot guns. Of course, we'd watch for him. On the doors, if somebody came in that they didn't know, they'd call the guard room. Well, you knew the description. If it was him, you knew he was coming. I was busy. I called the wife. We lived right here on C Street. I asked her to bring me down something for supper. The guy on the door here called me downstairs and described this woman. And I said, "For God's sake,

page 257

don't stop her! That's my wife with my supper." (Laughter) We were pretty close. Kept each other informed. But you don't have that now. Of course, it's a big organization.

BAKER: What about the Senate itself and Capitol Hill?

BALLARD: The Congress has changed so that even an old senator, if he was resurrected and came back, he wouldn't understand where he was. Especially now on the House side. You have all of these different organizations within the House. The Black Caucus. The Boll Weevils. They're just enough to stop legislation. They can't pass anything. But they have ruined the House. Just enough to stop it. Not do any good. Of course, the Senate's changed so that they don't recognize themselves now. These members going in so many directions. As I've said, when I came here you had about eighteen or twenty members who ran the Senate. And they ran it. They knew what legislation was necessary. What was worthwhile and what wasn't. They conducted their business. They adjourned and they went home. They didn't lollygag here all year long with a recess for this a recess for that. A "working period" at home. That's a bunch of bull!

BAKER: It seems now that freshmen members, and there are a lot of freshman members, have a lot more power than they might have had in earlier times.

page 258

BALLARD: And that's the leadership. The leadership /of the Senate and House/ gives it to them or they wouldn't have it. A leader today plays ball with them because he gets a chit in his pocket and he'll call it back later and they'll wish to Hell they hadn't given it to him, but it's too late. Those old boys in those days, they didn't have to give out chits. They told lem to stay in line. It's like Speaker Rayburn who had the "Board of Education Room" He controlled them. If you want to get along, go along. And he wouldn't even recognize them from the floor. They might be there a year before held even point a finger at them. But he had everything under control. The yeas and nays to him were what he wanted, regardless of what came off the floor. "The ayes have it." Everybody knew he was wrong, but they weren't going to say anything. But, I think it was better when it had some control.

BAKER: Had a sense of direction.

BALLARD: That's right. Which they don't have now.

BAKER: Well, when you think back to the first day you arrived here, and you were walking by the office building and you looked up and weren't even sure what it was, and you went up to see your senator . . . At that point you must have had a sense of awe about Capitol Hill. Does some of that still last after all these years?

page 259

BALLARD: Oh, yes. It does with me. The Capitol Building at night. I'll never get over it. Regardless. You see it on TV. It is still the Capitol Building. I was working one evening on the West Front. An Army captain came strolling by. I was leaning over the rail looking down toward the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. He said to me, "What is that statue down there." And I said, "Which

one?" And he said, "That tall shaft." And I said, "Are you kidding me!" And he said, "No. I'd like to know. It is my first visit here." I said, "You mean to tell me, captain, that you don't know the Washington Monument?" He says, "Is that what it is?" Well, I thought that every school child knew, but there was an Army captain who didn't know. That surprised me. It took me a long time to get over that.

I'll never change in my thoughts about the Capitol. I never get tired of it. I used to have lots of people come to town to visit me. And I always brought them up one trip at night. And, they'd say to me, "Don't you get tired of seeing this?" And I'd say, "No, I never do." I'd take them by the Lincoln Memorial at night. Now, that's a beautiful scene. Everybody should see that. They don't have to be lovers of Lincoln to appreciate that scene.

BAKER: It sounds as if looking back over your time here, that you don't have many regrets.

page 260

BALLARD: I don't have any. The jobs have been good to me. Of course, I worked at it. I came here under patronage and my member was defeated six months after I got here. Patronage was tough, but I made up my mind that I was going to stay here. That I liked it here. That it was a good job. I was interested. The Capitol Building was right up my alley. I'd always liked history. I could never get enough of it and that Capitol Building. It was there. All you had to do was look for it. And I did. And that's one of the reasons why I stayed. Because it got to the point where people would come to the Capitol Building hunting me about history in the Capitol. I've enjoyed every day of it. That's one reason why I won't leave.

BAKER: You have done it all. You have had every office a person could hold [within the department].

BALLARD: And I was the first man ever to work up through the ranks from the patronage system. The only one who survived it. The first one ever to break the barrier and come out of it. We had lieutenants, but never a captain. They always brought those fellas in. And then when the opening came, I was made the first captain. I was proud of that, because that made it possible for other men to come up as captain after I was captain, they made it, which was all right. It has been an interesting life. And I've been able to pass it on to other people . . . to school groups. School groups from West Virginia. I've gotten some beautiful letters from kids.

page 261

I had one experience with an exchange student from one of the Scandinavian countries. She had been in my home town going to school and she was going back to New York to join the rest of the group and go back home. Well, a girl from home came up with her. I knew her parents real well. Her father called me and asked if I would help them out at the Capitol. So, they came up one morning at

9:30. Dean Rusk and I were awfully good friends. Dean Rusk told me stuff that he didn't tell anybody, especially about his personal life. Anyhow, I told them, "I've got to go over to the House side because Dean Rusk is coming up to meet with the speaker and I have to go over to the House side and pick him up and take him to the speaker's office. So, I took them over and set them right outside the door of the chamber. The speaker's office is here (pointing). Couple of chairs there for the doormen. And I said, "You wait here until I go down and get him." I brought him up the elevator and I introduced him to them. He shook hands with them. I took him in the office and he had to wait a couple of minutes. So he came back out, and he said to them, "You all have never met the speaker have you?" I said, "No, they haven't." He said, "You all come in with me." So he took them in and introduced them and brought them out. So, we visited until he came out and I took him back to the car.

Then I took them through the building and over to the Senate galleries so they could be there for the opening [of the daily session]. They came out in a few minutes. As they came out, going into

page 262

the gallery was the congressman from West Virginia, Ken Hechler. Now, he was great with young people. It is a shame that he got defeated because he did so much for the young people. He was going in with Supreme Court Judge Browning from home. And I introduced them. He said, "We are going to be out of here in a few minutes. You take them over to the House Door because I'm going to take them to lunch and I'll be over there in a few minutes." So we walked over. It wasn't very long before he and the judge came by. I said, "They got more of a break out of you. I wasn't about to take them to lunch." Well, this kid, she couldn't get over what she had seen. She went back home to Norway and it wasn't very long 'til I got a letter from her thanking me. But she asked me if I would write down and send to her what we had done that day at the Capitol. "They won't believe I met the Speaker of the House and the Secretary of State. But, if you will write it down, I think they will believe that." So I did. She wrote back and said, "I finally impressed them."

BAKER: She will never forget you as long as she lives. I guess that would be the ideal situation. If everybody who came to the Capitol could have that kind of experience.

BALLARD: Yes. I had an old school teacher from near home. It was a one-room school house. They had grades up to the eighth. He brought them every year. He would tell them before they started out,

page 263

"Take notes, because when you get back home there will be questions." I don't know how many years I took him through, and finally the old man died. He'd write me a letter when he was coming, on Saturday. And if I wasn't working, I'd

go in, 'cause I didn't want to disappoint him. I would get letters and at Christmas, I'd get packages.

BAKER: I bet every family in that town knew your name before very long.

BALLARD: Even in the state. People from all over the state. I had a woman from up in the northern part of the state who sent me preserves every Christmas. She had come down here with a 4-H group and I had taken them through. She was so impressed with the Capitol.

BAKER: When those people think of the Capitol, they think of you.

BALLARD: Apparently.

BAKER: Well, this might be a good place to stop. I have kept you moving for almost two hours today.

BALLARD: I enjoy it. It is interesting to me, because I don't have a chance to recall those things except on an occasion like this.
[End of Interview #8]

page 264

Leonard Ballard

Inspector, United States Capitol Police (1947-1984)

Interview #9

(Tuesday, January 10, 1984)
Interviewed by Richard A. Baker

BAKER: I brought back the photographs you sent over. I went through them and picked out some that we would like to include in your book. As long as I have them out, I'd like to ask you to identify some of those I might not be familiar with.

BALLARD: That's Hugh O'Brian who played Wyatt Earp on the television series. He came up here one day to appear before a committee. He was doing his clown act. I haven't the slightest idea when that was.

BAKER: That's Red Skelton?

BALLARD: No. That's Bill Wannall [Sergeant at Arms] and the House Sergeant at Arms with Gerald Ford.

BAKER: Here's John Kennedy in 1963.

BALLARD: His last appearance in the Capitol Building for the State of the Union message.

BAKER: Is that George Stewart [Architect of the Capitol]?

BALLARD: That's George Stewart. It was always customary for the Architect to meet the president. We used to have an architect--

page 265

Dave Lynn--who was Architect before George [Stewart]. But Dave never liked that detail. In fact, he never liked to leave his office. He left it up to his assistant, an old man by the name of Gus Cook. They always came at noon in those days. Lyndon Johnson was the one that started the 9:00 o'clock [p.m.] bit on account of prime time [for television audience]. Gus would run to me and say, "Have you heard from them?" "No, they haven't left the White House." "I've got time for one more drink, huh?" I said, "Yep, if you will hurry, Mr. Cook." Back of the old Crypt, in his office there, he had his bottle. He had a refrigerator built in the wall. And he kept his booze there. And he'd run and get him another one. And get back in time.

BAKER: This was all before noontime?

BALLARD: Oh, yeah. Yes, sir. For his lunch. He was a character. Now that picture is of the original police force. They were night watchmen and then they

decided they needed police and they appropriated \$3,000 and hired this group here. You'll notice this fellow here.

BAKER: A black man.

BALLARD: He was a tall one. I've forgotten how tall. We measured one time. This was right outside the Law Library Door [to the Capitol]. Six feet something.
page 266

BAKER: When do you suppose that picture was taken?

BALLARD: Well, 1856 or 157. He [pointing to a man in the right front] must have been a captain because he has a double row of brass buttons. Now that one is when [Richard] Nixon was a senator. We were making him a member of the Senate Staff Club. We organized the Senate Staff Club. This fellow worked for a Nebraska senator. McDermott was his name. He was elected first president of the club. And we went up to present Nixon with a membership card.

BAKER: I like this picture a lot [President Eisenhower and Ballard].

BALLARD: Now, that was the first time he came to the Capitol after he left the presidency [in 1961]. He came up and spent the day. He had a luncheon in S-207. I was with him the entire time. The chief assigned me to stay with him the entire day. He had no Secret Service. He didn't want them up there that day.

BAKER: So that really added to your chores.

BALLARD: In those days there was no concern. Who's going to shoot [a former president].

BAKER: Was the building open to the public?
page 267

BALLARD: Oh, yeah! We fooled around. We sat in S-207 in the afternoon. He and I sat in there and chatted. Nobody around. We talked about World War II. I was in the Ninth Infantry Division. He said, "That was one of the better divisions." I said, "Well, I'll agree with you there. I think it was the best division." He said, "Naturally." He told me who the first commanding officer was. We had quite an afternoon.

BAKER: I'll bet you never dreamed you'd end up talking to him when you were being evacuated from Durn.

BALLARD: No (Laughing), I never thought that I would. In fact, when I came back from overseas, we came back by air part of the way. We came back from Paris to England and then by plane from Preswick, Scotland over to New York and then down to Richmond. We flew over Washington. We had an old plane

with benches on the side. I remember we flew over the Capitol. The Capitol looked like a souvenir ashtray. But I never thought of working in that building.

BAKER: I have wanted to ask you about a great institution on Capitol Hill that is now gone. Ann's Newsstand. It used to be out here in a trailer next to the office building.

BALLARD: I'm very familiar with Ann's Newsstand.

BAKER: How did that all come about?

page 268

BALLARD: Ann Cooper came here from Ohio and got a job as sort of a maid in the Carroll Arms Hotel. She decided to go down to the Lewis Hotel Training School. It was a very well known, established, and respected school. Started out by an old man and woman named Lewis. It was down on Pennsylvania Avenue at about the 2100 block. She graduated from that school and got a job as assistant desk clerk at the Carroll Arms. She noticed that the newsstand in the hotel, that there was where the money was. So she got into that newsstand and stayed in the newsstand until the hotel went bankrupt. And they closed it in 1973. Well, she had enough clout among the employees to get them to let her rent a trailer and set it up on the grounds here next to the hotel. She had a little trouble. She didn't pay city taxes. I was up there one day and some new Metropolitan policeman came by and she didn't have a vending license. And I told him, "She doesn't need a vending license." Now, I know you have to bend the law. She had flowers for sale out front. I said [to the Metropolitan policeman], "You're wasting your time. You are not going to touch her. You'll get a call." And then one day we were having a meeting down here. The city had closed in on her and was going to close her up. Well, he was later deputy chief, but in those days he was captain in the Senate office building. We were having a meeting and he said, "I've got to leave here at 10:30 because they are going to cut the power off of Ann's trailer. I said, "Bill, does Ann know that?" And he said, "Yes, she's been notified." I said, "Well, you

page 269

won't leave at 10:30, because they are not going to cut the power off. Carl Hayden or [William] Proxmire or some of those people are going to put the call in. You might as well forget it." So sure enough, he never got called out of the meeting. Ann had an awful lot of friends. Of course, she had an illness and she turned . . . she didn't turn it over, they just took it over . . . some young people there and they just ripped her up. They didn't pay their bills. They pocketed the money.

BAKER: Where did they come from?

BALLARD: They were local. Some were policemen.

BAKER: They said they would help her out during her absence?

BALLARD: Yeah, and they were "helping" her out, too. Now, I knew Ann well, from the day I used to live here on Second Street and bought newspapers from her in the evening. I suggested to her that she close it up. "You'll be better off and then when you get out of the hospital you can open back up again." But she wouldn't do it.

BAKER: She felt loyal to her customers?

BALLARD: That's right. And half the time those people didn't pay her. When she got ill and didn't remember who owed her, she kept no records. Mark Russell [the comedian] and Sid Yudin [publisher of the newspaper Roll Call] held a benefit for her when she got out of

page 270

the hospital. They got a room up in the Senate office building and had a crowd of people. I was there. The admission was \$10.00 or something. They raised about \$8,000 and paid off her bills completely and then she got right back into debt, letting those youngsters tear her up. They just took her to the cleaners. Then when she died [in April 1983] she was in debt. They introduced a bill [in the Senate] for \$4,000 to pay her funeral expenses. Of course, they took the trailer out.

BAKER: That area was considered Senate property?

BALLARD: Oh, of course. It was just as illegal as it could be. But nobody was going to pay any attention to it. Once in a while you'd run across a Metropolitan policeman. I'd get a call from Ann to come up. And there would be a Metropolitan policeman there and I'd try to explain to him. "You are butting your head against a wall, fella. Because the minute you leave here, she is going to call somebody."

BAKER: I am surprised that Metropolitan thought they had any jurisdiction up here.

BALLARD: Well, you get some young ones down there, or a new captain or a new inspector and he's making a tour. He wants to sweep

page 271

everything. So you have to wise him up. "Best thing to do is just drive on by, partner. (Laughter) This is Capitol Hill. There's nothing you can do about it." Well, to get back to the Lewis Hotel School, I'll tell you a little trick I pulled. You know, the jobs [in the early days] were all patronage. I was desk clerk on the third [police] relief. That's four to twelve. There was a change of administrations. Everybody was getting notices. Well, I was desk clerk, because I was the only fella on the relief who could type at that time. Here came a notice from Mr. [Carl] Hayden, who was chairman of the Patronage Committee that there would be nobody held over except students. The rest of the personnel were subject to dismissal. I don't have to tell you, I became a student so fast, it made your . . .

(Laughter). I was a veteran and I had a good friend from close to my hometown who was chief clerk of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. A fella named Casey Jones. I went over to Casey and told him, "I have to have a certificate of eligibility by tomorrow so that I can get into school--into Lewis Hotel Training School. I picked that one out because it didn't require much.

BAKER: This was long before Ann got involved in it?

BALLARD: Oh, yes.

BAKER: What year was that?

page 272

BALLARD: It was about 1950. The Democrats took over [in 1949]. Hayden took over as chairman of the patronage committee so it must have been [1949 or] 1950. Well, Casey had a devil of a time getting me that certificate of eligibility that fast. He had to check with the VA downtown to get my record. But he got it and I motored right on down to Lewis Hotel Training School and enrolled. And then when they sent word out for the list of students, the Patronage Committee did, all I had to do was add my name as a student. And, you know, I attended school down there, for a while. Several months. And then I got notice that they had appointed a new captain. When you went in on the afternoon, they day clerk would tell you, "Take your gear and report to the captain's office." Well, that meant, that was it [you were fired]. I used to go in and loaf in there and the day clerk would take off and I'd do the work. Of course, you couldn't loaf anywhere. You can't loaf in a bar unless you drink. That was the only place to loaf. So I went in one Saturday. I didn't go in early on Saturday because my wife was home. But, when I went in, he said to me, "The supply sergeant wants you to come to the office when you come in this afternoon." I said, "Did he say anything about my gear?" And he said, "No, he didn't say anything about your gear. Just for you to come over there." So, I went over and there was the new captain. Nobody even knew he was there. He introduced me to the new captain. He said, "I understand you go down to the guard room there and loaf during the day and that you know quite a bit about the

page 273

building. How would you like to come over here and help us out." There were so many transfers and vacancies. The whole place was loaded up with old uniforms. "When the time comes to go to your shift over there, you can go over there." I said, "Well, I don't care. I'd just as soon be over here as down there."

BAKER: "Over here" was where?

BALLARD: He wanted me to come over to the captain's office in the basement of the Capitol Building. And I'd been going down to the guard room in the office building.

So I went over and, of course, I had to quit school. I was on day shift! And I got a call from the school. They were very complimentary. I was doing so well, that they wondered why I quit. I told them police duties prevented it.

I was there a couple of weeks and the new captain wondered who my patronage was. I told him I didn't have any. He said, "How'd you stay around here all this time without any patronage?" I said, "Luck, I suppose." Well, a little bit of luck and, of course, I made some luck, too. He said, "I'd like to keep you if you had patronage. I said, "Well, I just don't have it and I can't get it." He said, "What about the West Virginia senators?" I said, "Each one of them have a man and I wouldn't go near them." So, he said to me one day, "I'm going up to see Joe Duke to see if he'll keep you, because you

page 274

do a good job here. " He came back and said Duke said it was all right with him. That was the only problem I ever had.

BAKER: When they said everyone but students had to leave, what percentage of the Capitol Police Force at that time was nonstudent?

BALLARD: At that time, a big percent were non-students, because most of the men were in the service [during World War II] so they gathered up retired Metropolitan, just anybody who came by could get on the police force.

BAKER: So that decree really weeded out many of the people who had been there during the war.

BALLARD: That's right. It got them all.

BAKER: And it was the Democrats who did that rather than the Republicans. They hadn't done that in 1947 when they took control of the Senate?

BALLARD: The Republicans didn't bother them unless you came by and wanted patronage.

BAKER: So the people who were there, they left?

page 275

BALLARD: Yes. And it was no trouble for a Republican to get patronage because the people you replaced didn't expect to be there any [length of] time anyhow.

Now, the Democrats did want to put students in. And there were students. And when they lost [in 1952] in the 83rd Congress, the Republicans did the same thing. They loaded it up with students. The third relief of the Senate office building [detail] was damn near made up of men of Utah because old man [Arthur] Watkins and Wallace Bennett both had seniority and clout. They filled up that third relief with Mormons--fine boys, every one of them. They were

students. Dental students, law students, medical students, all students. They weren't interested in police work. We had one fellow who we had to take down to our uniform man and have a special uniform made for him. The only place we could work him was at the Delaware Avenue entrance to the Senate office building right outside the Senate guard room. He looked normal sitting at a desk. You couldn't send him down the hall in his uniform because he was only about that tall--less than five feet. He was a dental student and we used to kid him. His brother was a dentist and he was going into the office with him. His brother was going to have a special seat made for him. So he could stay seated all the time.

page 276

BAKER: You indicated that you had some additional thoughts related to the growth of security requirements over the years.

(Portions Deleted)

BALLARD: When I was in [assigned to] the Capitol Building when that bomb went off in the basement [1971], they decided to have inspections. They had a policeman--a very good friend of mine, was then, is today--who was put in charge of the Inspection Division. He came over to the Capitol Building to come through one of my men with a phoney package. Well, I knew it. I went up there and I met him! And, I don't have to tell you, I got him by the ear and led him to the Document Door and told him, "Don't you ever come over here. You can come over if you want to, but not on missions like that, because you are tearing up the morale of these men over here who are doing a job that they think they can do. And they are doing it. They are standing up here long hours. But when someone comes in here and tries to torpedo them, I don't like it." And he didn't come back [for that purpose]. Now, for this [upcoming] joint session, we'll have 1,200 men out there.

page 277

BAKER: How many are in the force?

BALLARD: 1,200.

BAKER: Where will they be?

BALLARD: They'll have about 500 across the [East] front. Now, that's ridiculous. I'll admit, things [these days] are a little more scary. I try to tell them, back during World War II we used to have one [head of state or high security risk visitor] a month. The leaders of the new countries and all. They were over here [for joint sessions of Congress] at least one a month. And they were at 12:30 /p.m., not at 9:00 [p.m.] when the building is closed. These were at 12:30 when the tourists were here. I don't know how many I have worked in my time with [only] thirty-two men. They will have thirty-two now in one room there. I try to tell them that it is a waste. They will trip over themselves.

Now, this Chinaman who is due up here tomorrow [Premier Zhao Ziyang]-- between a twenty and twenty-five car motorcade! Ten of those cars will be filled with Secret Service agents. Why? Because they hired so many agents for these presidential campaigns, they we don't have anything for them to do now. So, we'll give them to the Chinaman!

From the old days, when I had to do it the hard way, these things look awfully stupid.

page 278

BAKER: A long way from the days when President Harry Truman would come up by himself.

BALLARD: He came by himself! Except maybe [Harry] Vaughan would be with him. There were no Secret Service here. They didn't come up here, because he didn't bring them. It was all right for them to be down at the White House. I met Harry Truman up here [the time], he came up in Harry Vaughan's car. It was a trap, to begin with. In fact, I didn't recognize it the first time. It was an old beaten up car. That's the way they traveled. They didn't attract attention. Now there was the incident with former Deputy Sergeant at Arms Bobby Hough.

BAKER: The former page.

BALLARD: Yes. He let the Secret Service build up enormous security. I used to tell him we don't need it. Well, the second one [head of state], I've forgotten what country he's from. They had men all over the Senate steps, down under the arch and all that. And I had a sergeant in my car pool. I had him working the Foreign Relations Committee door [site of the meeting]. And I was out at the Senate Door waiting for the man to appear under the arch there. Jim came out and said, "I don't know what happened, but he just went in the Foreign Relations Committee room." (Laughter) I went around and

page 279

his escort was there and they said, "Well, when we got up to the Senate steps, our driver said, 'We better go up to this door here and unload there. There must be something going on. They have got the steps cut off.'" (Laughter) They went to the Law Library Door and went in and walked down the corridor.

BAKER: How long ago was that?

BALLARD: Not very long ago. And we were waiting. Had the Secret Service and the whole bit.

BAKER: That's a wonderful story! Those things are going to happen.

BALLARD: It happens all the time. I'm not putting the Secret Service down in a minute, but the Secret Service looks up into trees and buildings. They don't look

on the ground. And they don't work with the press. I used to work with the press. I gave the press concessions. But the press kept me tipped. If there was a stranger in the crowd, I knew about it. Because Leroy Anderson or some of those boys, I allowed them to park on the East Front. They had to make a living. They didn't come up here because they were sightseers, but because the office sent them up there. I used to tell the men. Park them out here on the Front. They're not going to be here long. They knew it. They'd call and tell me. The president is on his way to the Capitol. And I was ready for them, because the press

page 280

would call me from downtown. But the Secret Service will not work with the press. I don't know why. You have got to tell the press a few things.

BAKER: Sure, or else they'll make things up.

BALLARD: You're darned right. When Reagan got shot, that boy [the attempted assassin] was right there with the cameras. And the NBC press man told them [the Secret Service], "This fella is not one of us." And they paid no attention. Around the Foreign Relations Committee room, when you had somebody hot in there, the press man would come to me and say, "See that fella over there? He's not one of us."

BAKER: And what would you do then?

BALLARD: I'd go over to him and I'd say, "I'm sorry, this area is for the press. Do you have your credentials?" "Yes, I have. I just got them. I'm new." "May I see them?" "Yes." And they were. It was all right. Or he would say, "No. I'm not a member of the press. I just saw this crowd and I wondered what's going on and I joined it." And I said, "Well, I will tell you what's going on, but you will have to move down in this area." And that was all right. He didn't feel insulted.

page 281

BAKER: How useful, in that connection, are the Senate employees who are superintendents of the various press galleries?

BALLARD: I'll tell you, they don't want to get involved. They want to take care of their little nest, but they don't want to get too involved.

BAKER: So, they are not your best source if there is a stranger who suddenly shows up?

BALLARD: They won't go in [to it], because they don't know whether he is a photographer or what category he is in under the jurisdiction on one of the other galleries (TV, Periodical Press, Newspapers, etc.). You don't count on them. You count on the working press.

BAKER: Thank you, Inspector Ballard.

[End of Interview #9]

page 282

Leonard Ballard

Inspector, United States Police, 1947-1984

Index

A

Abney, Stacy, 193-194
Aiken, George (R-VT), 164, 242
Aiken, Lola Pierotti, 242
Albertson, Frank, 8-9
Alderson-Broadbush College, 1-2
Allott, Gordon (R-CO), 45
American Civil Liberties Union, 201
Anderson, Leroy, 83-84, 280
Ann's Newsstand, 268-272

B

Bacon, Leslie, 209
Bacon, Ray, 131-132
Baker, Bobby, 167, 170-171, 246
Barkley, Alben (D-KY), 141-142
Barrett, Frank (R-WY), 90
Barrett, Mrs. Frank, 90-91
Beach, Vera, 97-98
Beall, J. Glenn, Sr. (R-MD), 27
Beatty, P.C., 3
Bennett, Wallace (R-UT), 276
Benton, William (D-CT), 180
Berry, E.Y. (R-SD), 245
Biffle, Leslie, 66, 153
Bilbo, Theodore (D-MS), 153-154, 157
Black Employees, 154-158
Boring, Floyd, 234-235
Boyle, Mike, 215
Bricker, John (R-OH), 33, 42-43
Bridges, Styles (R-NH), 115
Brooke, Edward (R-MA), 136-137
Brown, Percy "Hammy", 229-230
Byrd, Harry, Sr. (D-VA), 20-21, 164
Byrd, Robert C. (D-WV), 156-160, 244-245

C

Capitol, Bombing of (1971), 207-214, 251
Caraway, Hattie (D-AR), 207
Caraway, Lewey, 59-60

Castro, Fidel, 220-221
Caveness, Olin, 29-30, 190-191
Chavez, Dennis (D-NM), 103
Commission on the Operation of the Senate, 200, 253
Comstock, Jim, 1
Connally, Tom (D-TX), 161-162
Cook, Gus, 57-59, 266
Cooper, Ann, 269-272
Cooper, John Sherman (R-KY), 23-25
Copeland, Royal (D-NY), 21
Cranston, Alan (D-CA), 172

D

Dawes, Charles, 58
Dirksen, Everett (R-IL), 52, 83, 191-192
Dole, Robert (R-KS), 47
Donaldson, Sam, 74
Douglas, Paul (D-IL), 133-134
Dowd, Mike, 43
Duke, Joe, 29-31, 38, 42, 49, 52, 72, 75-77, 93-96, 152, 154-158, 178-179, 229-231, 239-240, 274-275
Duke, Paul, 72-73, 78
Dunphy, Robert, 72, 82, 185-186

E

Eastland, James O. (D-MS), 27, 225
Edelston, Sid, 97-98
Edwards, Douglas, 87
Eisenhower, Dwight, 57, 267-268
Elizabeth II, Queen, 68-70
Elson, Roy, 179

F

Flaherty, Jeremiah, 93
Fong, Hiram (D-HI), 48-49
Frost, Jack, 218
Fulbright, J. William (D-AR), 29-30

G

George, Walter (D-GA), 161
Goldwater, Barry (R-AZ), 2
Grevey, Harry, 204

H

Hart, Phillip (D-MI), 47
Hayden, Carl (D-AZ), 29-30, 38, 115-116, 162, 270, 272

Hechler, Ken (D-WV), 263
Hennings, Thomas (D-MO), 135-136, 233
Hitchcock, Alfred, 178
Hoey, Clyde (D-NC), 164
Hoover, Herbert, 139-140
Hoover, J. Edgar, 249
Hough, Bobby, 279
Huffman, James (D-OH), 42
Humphrey, Hubert (D-MN), 164-166, 233
Hunt, Lester (D-WY), 217-219

I

Inouye, Daniel (D-HI), 47

J

Johnson, Lyndon (D-TX), 53, 164, 167, 170-171, 180, 236-242, 266
Johnson, Zeake, 112
Johnston, Mrs. Olin, 90-91
Jones, Casey, 272-273
Jordan, B. Everett (D-NC), 211

K

Kaiser, Edgar, 6
Kennedy, Jacqueline, 241
Kennedy, John F. (D-MA), 52-53, 138-140, 240, 265
Kerr, Robert (D-OK), 166-171
Kilgore, Harley (D-WV), 110
Knowland, William F. (R-CA), 121-122
Krebs, Larry, 212-213

L

Lacovara, John, 72-73
Lebron, Lolita, 88
Lehman, Herbert (D-NY), 97-98
Long, Edward (D-MO), 233
Long, Russell (D-LA), 235-236
Lucas, Scott (D-IL), 109-110
Lynn, David, 57, 266

M

McCarthy, Joseph R. (R-WI), 25
McDonald, Wilbert, 148
McKellar, Kenneth (D-TN), 150-151
McMillan, John (D-SC), 227
Manatos, Mike, 217-218
Mansfield, Maurine, 241, 243

Mansfield, Mike (D-MT), 242-244
Marine Breakfast, 242-243
Martin, Edward (R-PA), 50
Massey, Raymond, 83
Maybank, Burnet (D-SC), 151-152
Menefee, Dick, 157, 179
Metcalf, Lee (D-MT), 9
Miller, Jack (R-IA), 81-82
Miller, William "Fishbait, 68-70
Mills, Wilbur (D-AR), 212-213
Mobley, George, 162
Morrison, Michael P.E, 207
Morse, Wayne (D-OR), 64
Moyers, Bill, 237-239
Mudd, Roger, 79
Mundt, Karl (R-SD), 126-127, 245
Murphy, George (R-CA), 136-137
Muto, Al, 86-87,
Muto, Frank, 233, 238-239

N

Nebraska Breakfast, 173-175
Neeley, Matthew (D-WV), 17
Nixon, Richard M. (R-CA), 52-53, 175-178, 220-223, 229-233, 267

O

O'Brian, Hugh, 265

P

Pastore, John (D-RI), 239
Pearce, Robert 93, 115-116
Pearson, Drew 151, 162
Pershing, John "Blackjack" 56-58
Phillip, Prince (Great Britain), 69, 71
Powell, James M, 37, 114, 213-215, 249
Price, Herbert, 148
Price, John, 48

Q

Quorum Club, 245-247

R

Randolph, Jennings (D-WV), 2
Raper, Evelyn, 49
Rayburn, Sam (D-TX), 259
Reed, Louis, 18, 33-34

Revercomb, Chapman (R-WV), 6-18, 33-34, 38
Romanoff, Michael (Harry F. Gerguson), 177
Rusk, Dean, 262
Russell, Mark, 270
Russell, Richard (D-GA), 45-46, 153-154, 160-161

S

Scalzo, Ralph, 139
Schamp, Carl, 61-62
Scheuer, James (D-NY), 78
Schorr, Daniel, 236
Scott, Arthur, 48
Scott, Kerr (D-NC), 172
Skelton, Red, 10-11
Spain, Jack, 157
Steed, Thomas (D-OK), 114
Stewart, J. George (R-DE), 139, 265
Sullivan, Charles, 31, 93-95, 99-100, 214-215, 227-229

T

Taft, Robert, Sr. (R-OH), 26
Tames, George, 74-77
Taylor, Glen (D-ID), 53
Tippitt, Jane (Mrs. Lawrence), 90
Truman, Harry (D-MO), 21-22, 57, 65-66, 233-235, 279
Tydings, Millard (D-MD), 26-27

V

Vaughn, Bill, 141-142

W

Wannall, Bill, 81-83, 265
Watkins, Arthur (R-UT), 123-126, 276
Welker, Herman (R-ID), 51
Women Police, 247-248
Woofter, Perry, 156-158
Womack, Don, 206

Y

Yudain, Sid, 270

Z

Zhao Ziyang, Premier, 278